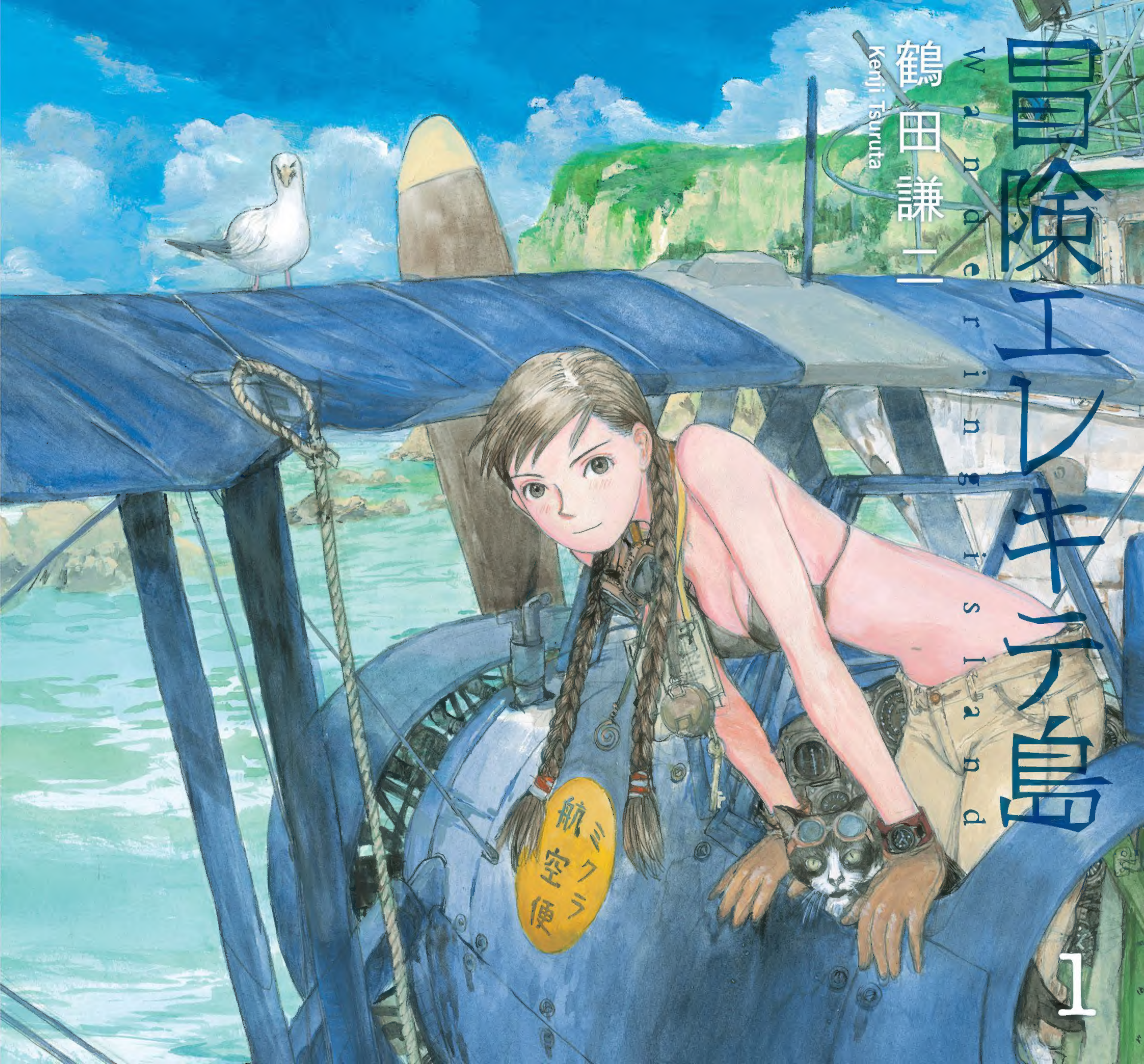
冒険王テナ島

Wandering Island

鶴田謙二
Kenji Tsuruta



1

冒険王テレビっ子

Wonderful Days

鶴田謙二
KENJI TSURUTA

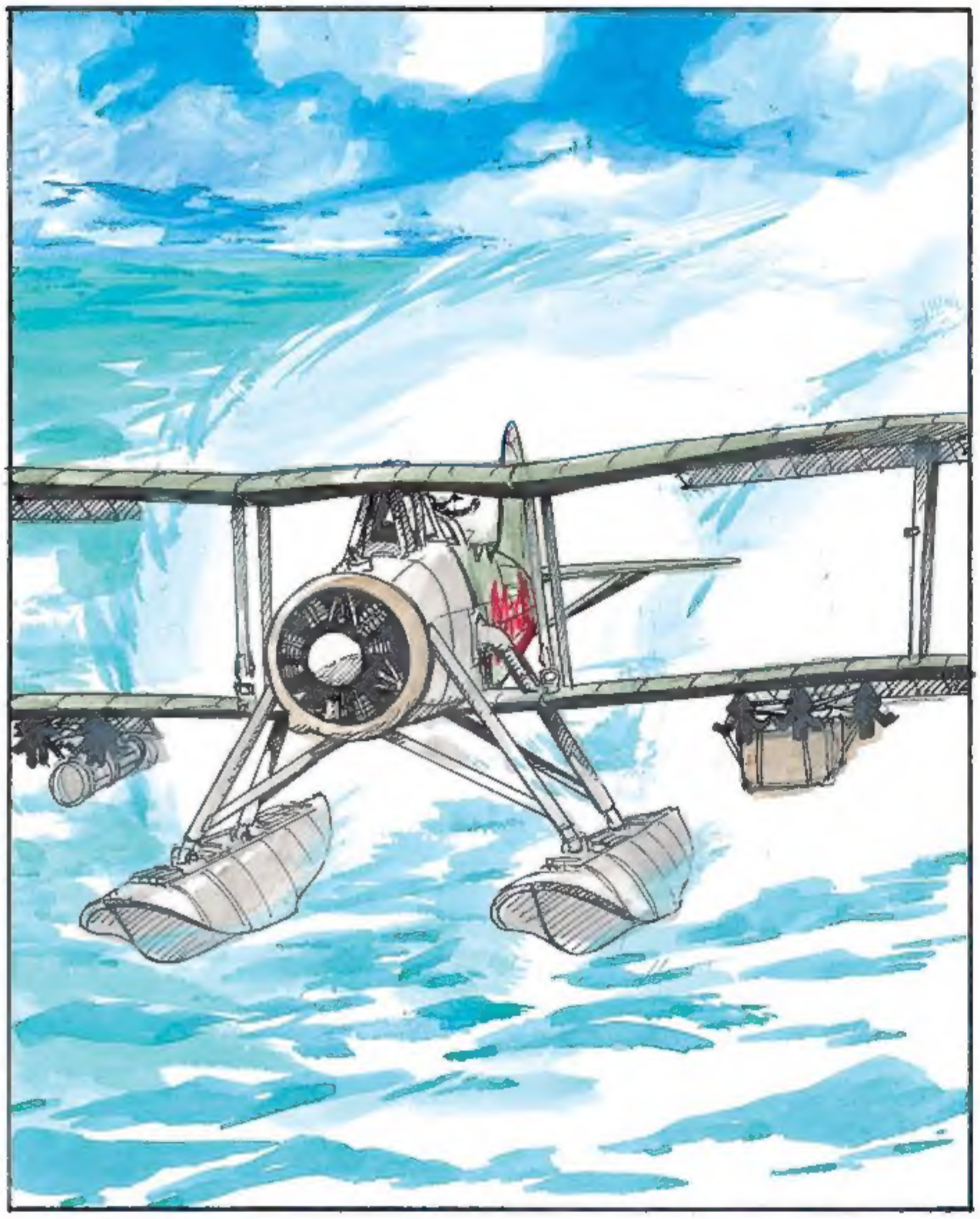
Story and Art by
KENJI TSURUTA

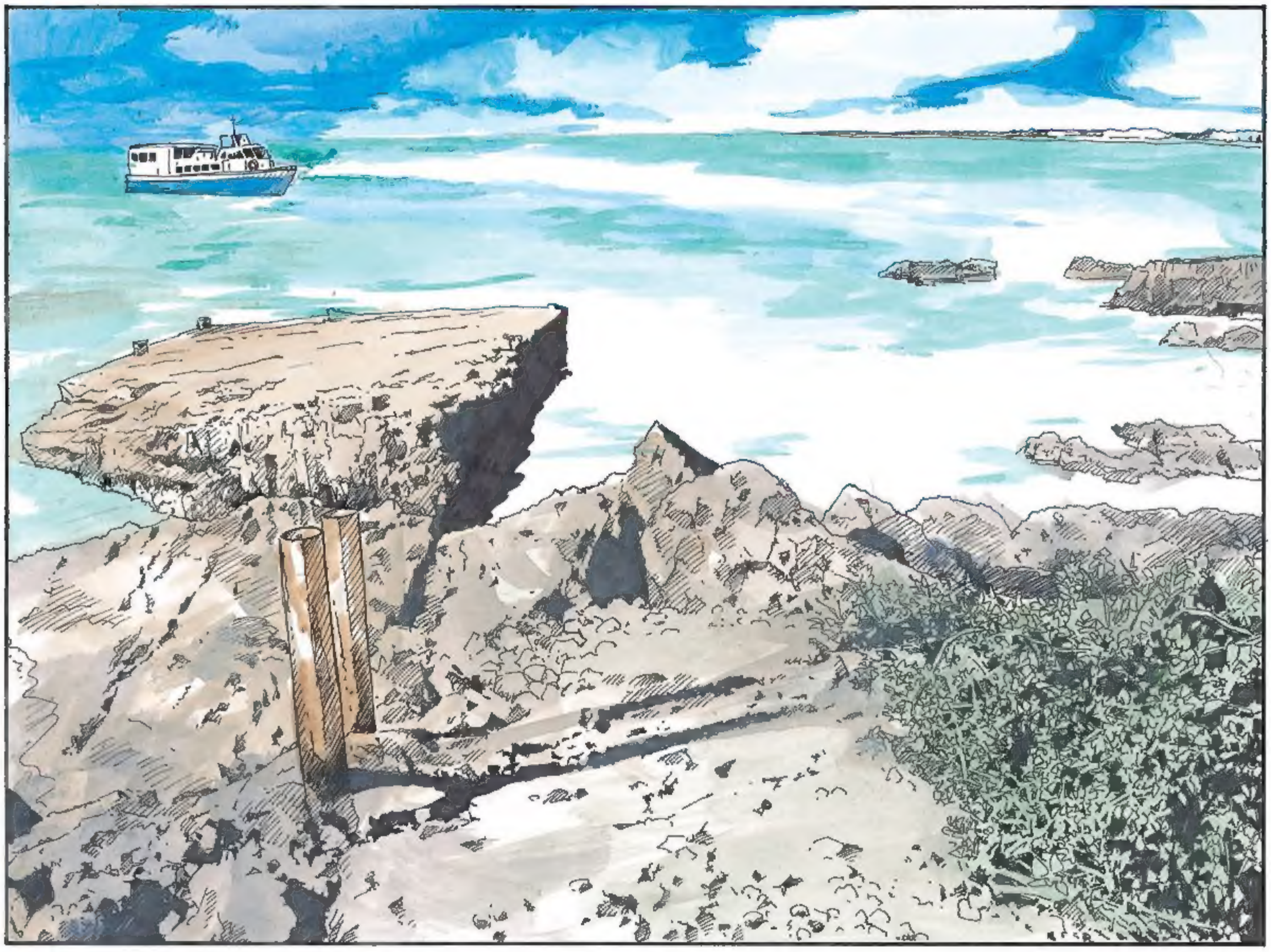
Translation by
DANA LEWIS

Lettering and Touchup by
SUSIE LEE AND BETTY DONG WITH TOM2K

DARK HORSE MANGA

Tokyo
Yokosuka
pg. 131
Oshima
Airport
pg. 11
Izu
Oshima
Port Habu
pg. 85
Toshima
Niijima
Kozushima
Miyakejima
Mikurajima
pg. 122
Mikura
Air
Service
Places
seen in
this story
0 10 20 30 40 50 60
km
mi
0 10 20 30 37.3
Mikura Air Service delivers as far as the Ogasawara Islands. 480 mi (772 km) to the SSE

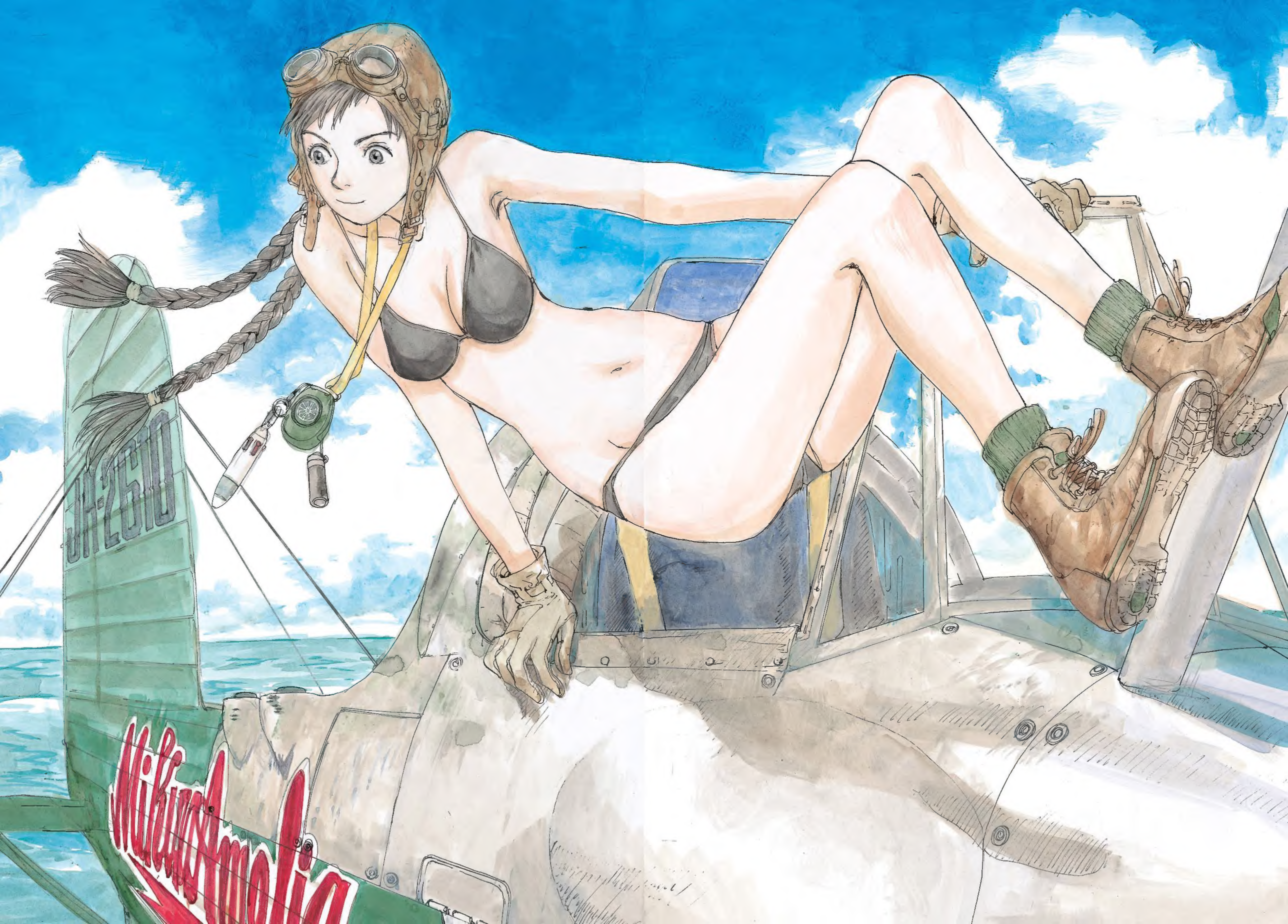




AHA! *THERE* YOU ARE...!

DIRECTOR...

...I HAVE A DELIVERY FOR YOU!


JA2610
Mikuni Amelia

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

HEH HEH HEH...

IT'S MY LAST RUN OF THE DAY, SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE A DIP...

OH...

...HELLO!

HE ADORES YOU, DIRECTOR. ISN'T HE ALWAYS HANGING AROUND...?

ALAS, SO. NOW I WONDER WHY I BOTHERED WITH THE TRACKER...

MIKURA, DEAR. YOUR PHONE OR WIRELESS OR WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT IN THAT PLANE IS RINGING...

OH? BE RIGHT THERE!

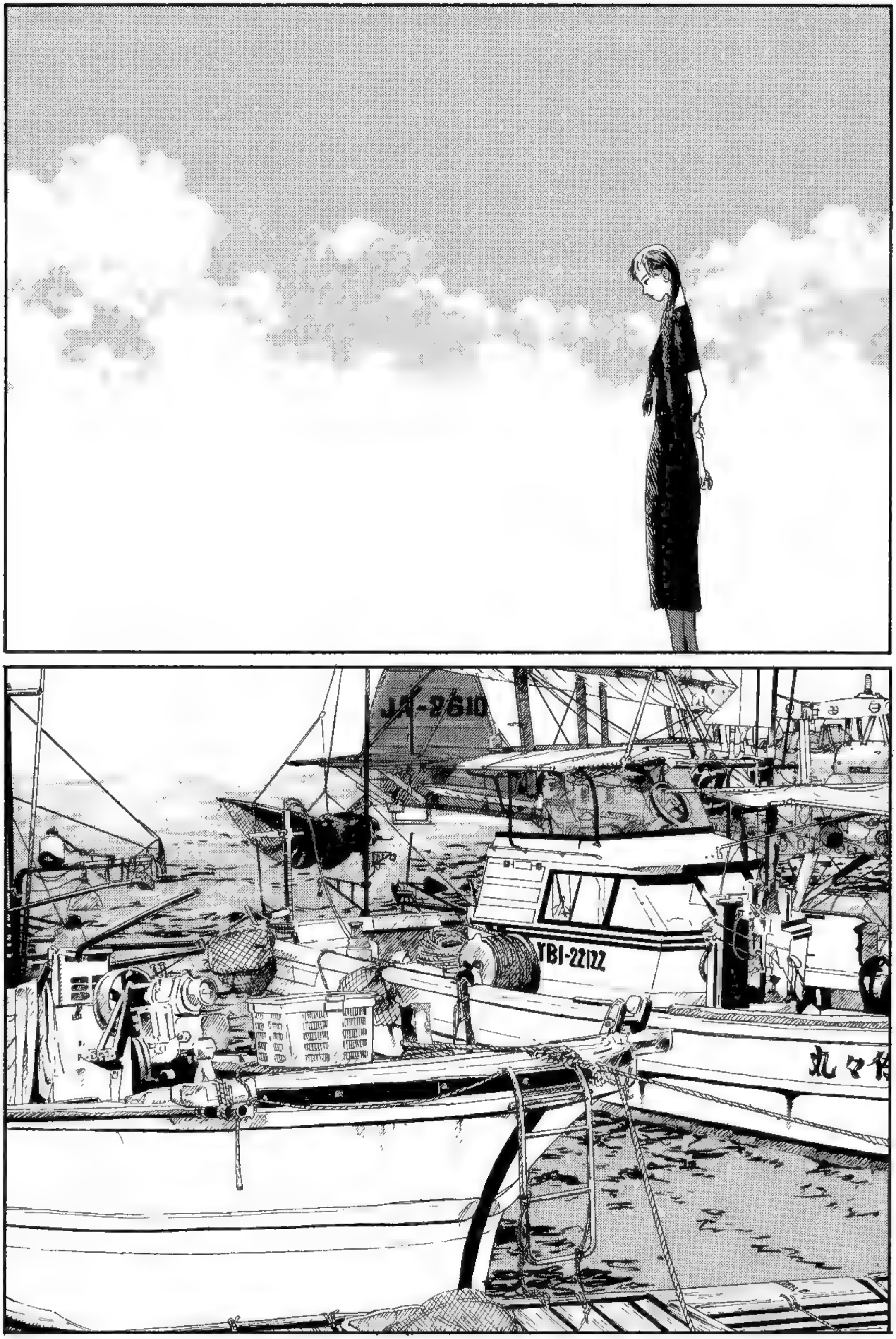
YOU WANT ANOTHER GAME OF BAD *SHOGI*...?

WHY NOT ASK GRANDPA? HE'S WAY BETTER THAN--

HELLO? WHO? OH! BOSS SEIJURO ...?

...WHAT?

India AIR SERVICE


JA-2610
YBI-22122
丸々

WELL THEN, MIKURA... WE'RE GOING HOME NOW.

かめりあ丸
CAMELLIA MARU

YEAH, MOM...

...I KNOW.

UNDER-STAND?

ONCE YOU'VE CALMED DOWN, COME AND VISIT.

WE'RE GOING TO MOVE HIS GRAVE THERE, TOO.

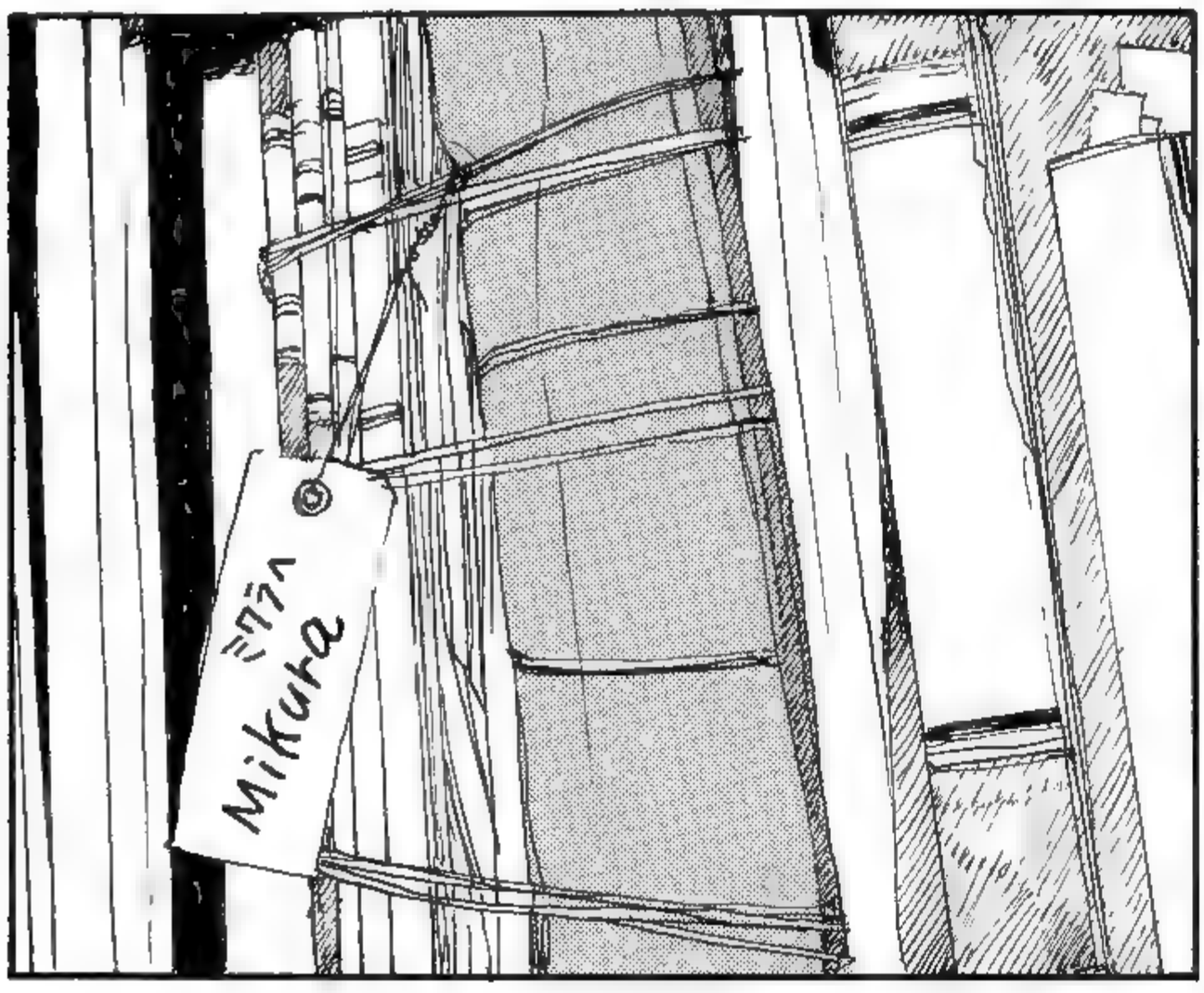
MOVE BACK TO THE MAINLAND?

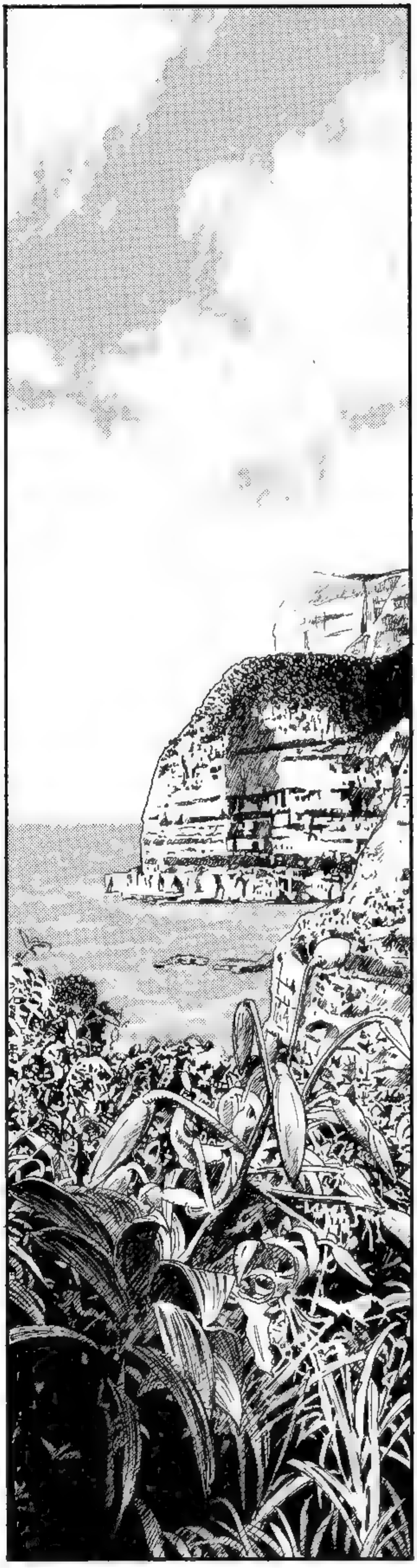
MIKURA, DEAR, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW...?

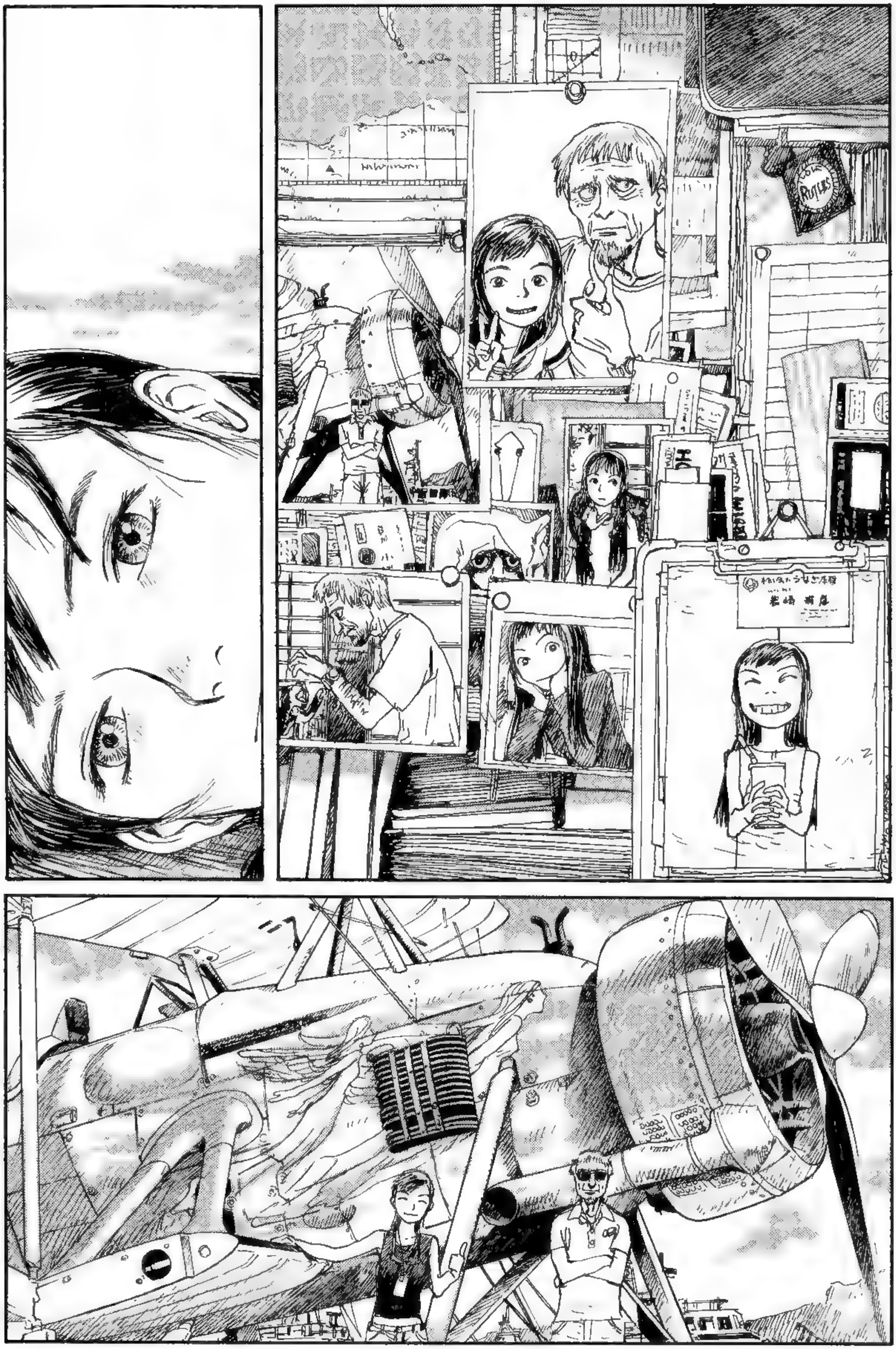
THEY'VE ALL LEFT...?

YUP.

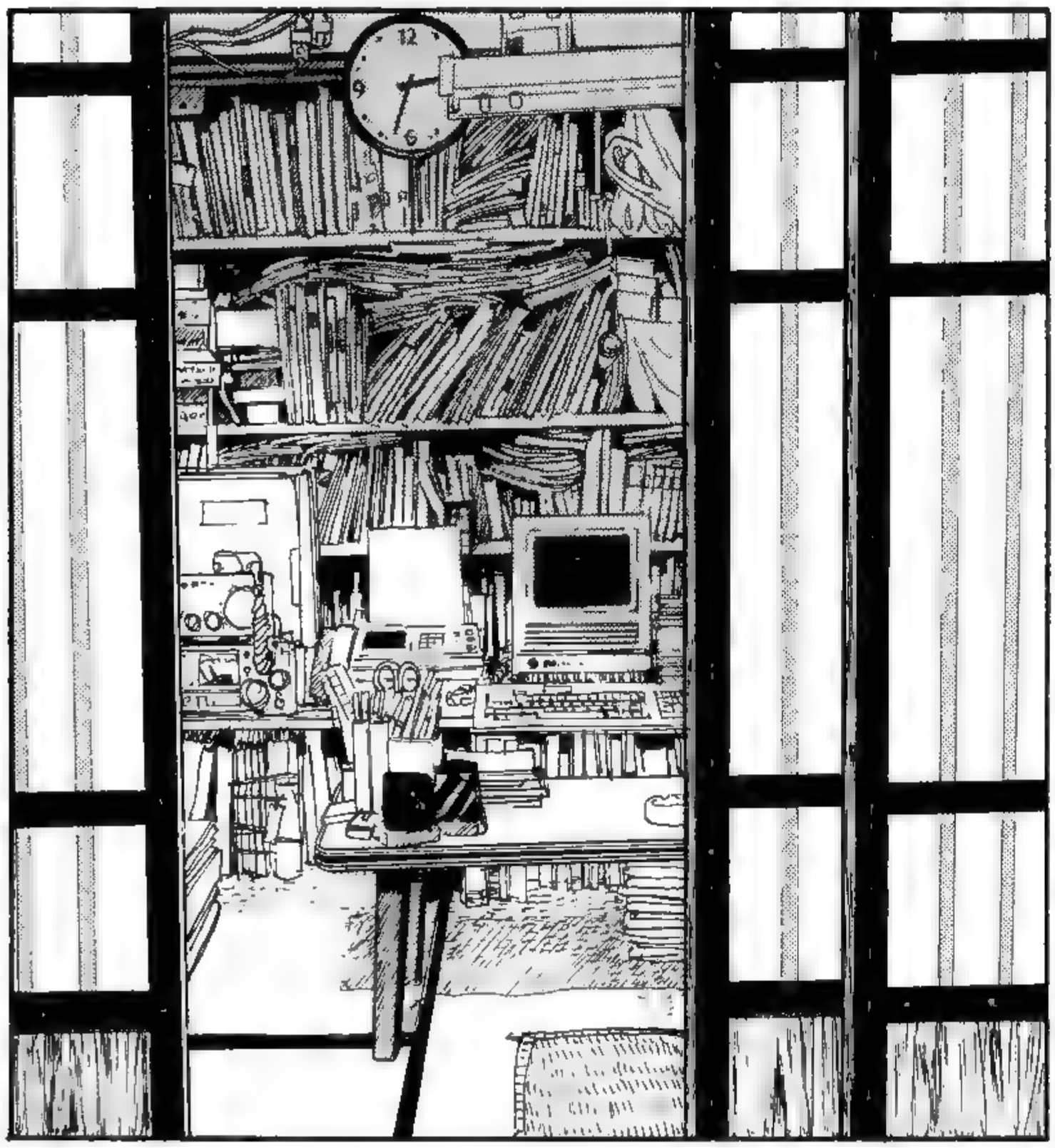
I'M NOT GONNA CLOSE DOWN OUR BUSINESS.
NO WAY GRANDPA AND I STARTED THIS COMPANY HE TAUGHT ME TO FLY...HELPED ME EARN MY LICENSE.

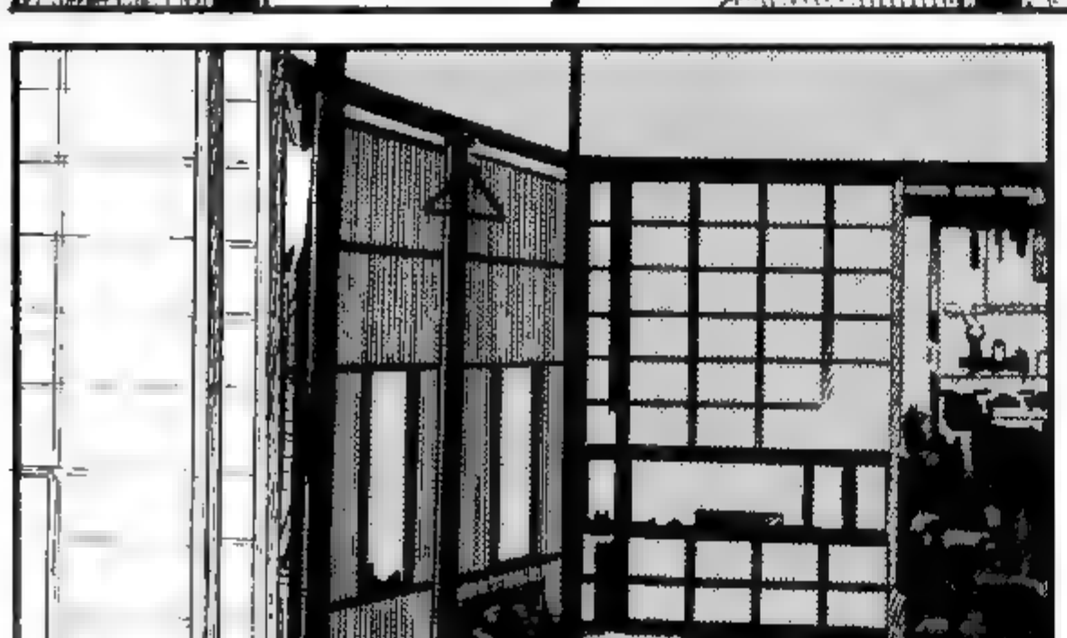

Mikura
ミクラ




RUTLES

航空便
JA-2610
Mikura Amelia
AIR SERVICE
Mikura
AIR SERVICE
EXPRESS DELIVERY
SAME DAY
WEEKLY
JUST 1 YEN
PER GRAM
ADDITIONAL
PACKAGES
BUNDLED
TO
OUTE





FOR MIKURA
FROM GRANDPA

Is. Electriciteit

Observations on location
of Is. Electriciteit

by Brian Amelia

ミクへ
Mikura

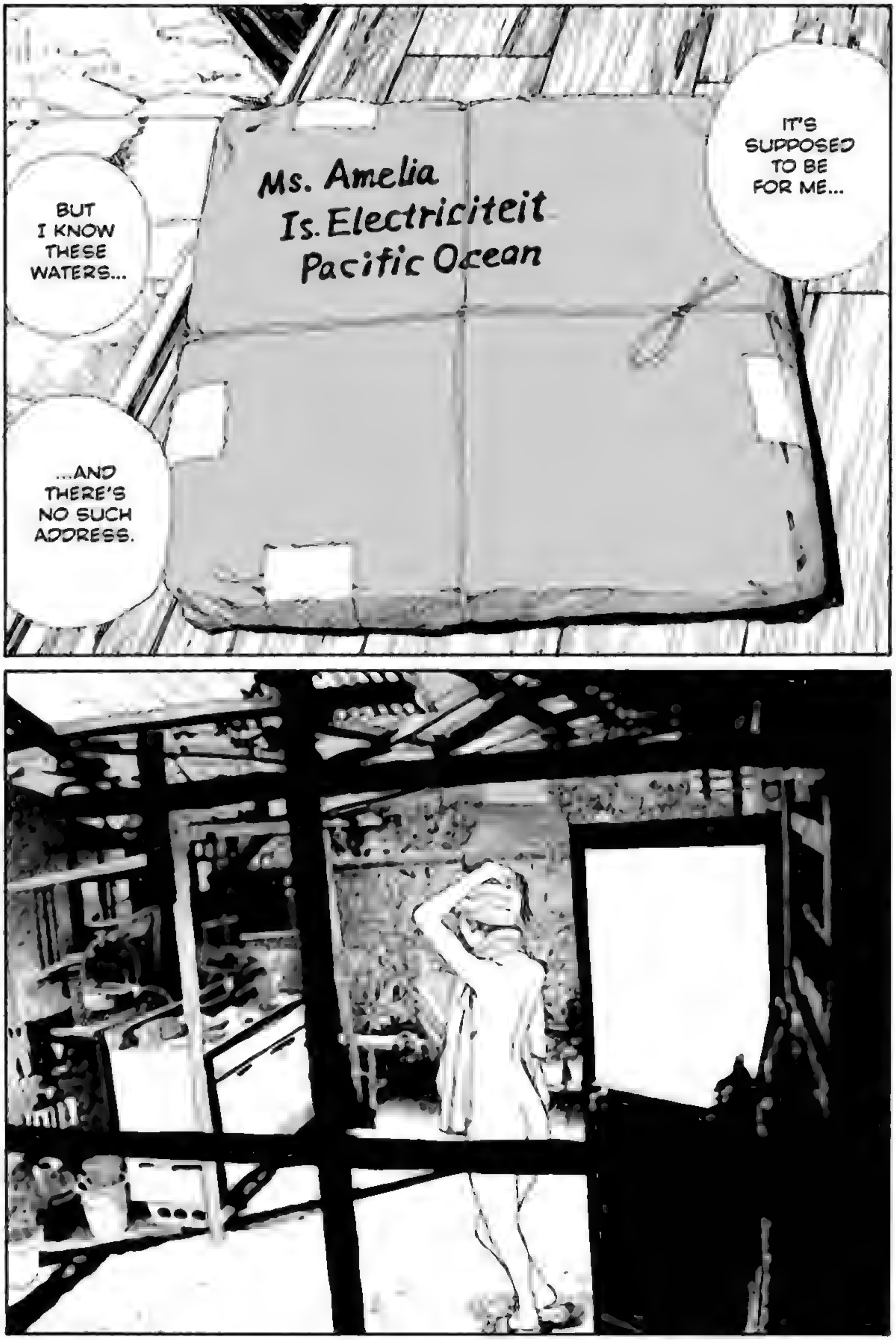
...NO, *30!* ALL THE WAY UP TO THIS YEAR...

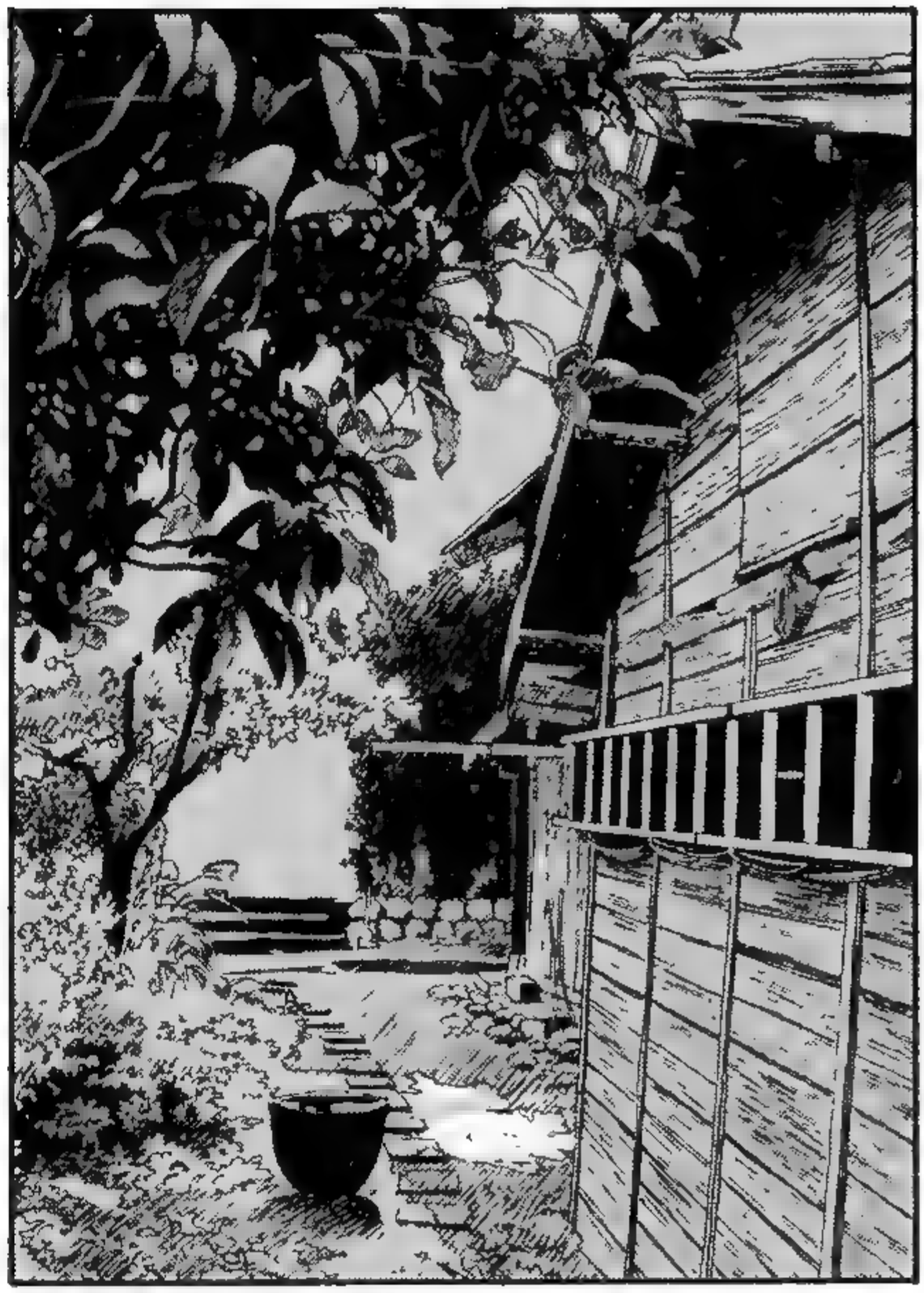
THERE MUST BE 20 YEARS OF JOURNALS HERE...

1982

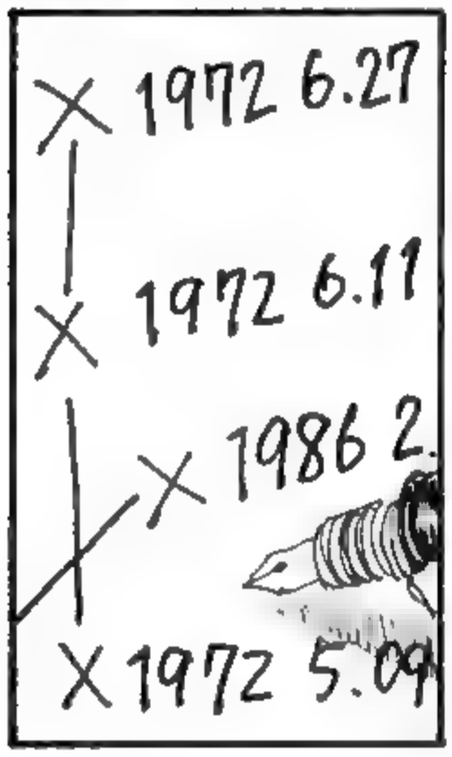
1979

IS. ELECTRI-CITEIT... ELECTRIC ISLAND ...?


BUT I KNOW THESE WATERS...
Ms. Amelia Is. Electriciteit Pacific Ocean
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE FOR ME...
...AND THERE'S NO SUCH ADDRESS.



SIGHTINGS OF
EL TRIC ISLAND
19


1972 6.27
1972 6.11
1986 2.
1972 5.09

HMMM....

...I DON'T GET THIS!

DANGER NO ENTRY

YOU SAY YOUR GRANDPA BRIAN WAS LOOKING FOR IT.?

BEATS ME. NEVER HEARD OF THE PLACE.

ELECTRIC ISLAND ...?

HEH! MEBBE *I* HAVE, THOUGH.

'CEPT IF IT'S WHAT YA GRAMPS MEANT, WE CALLED IT *MIRAGE ISLAND.*

OL' GOD OF THE SEA, HE LIKES T' PLAY HIS TRICKS...

OR MEBBE I WAS JUST *DREAM-IN'*...HAW.

FELT LIKE **WATATSU-MI-SAMA** HAD CONJURED UP THE PLACE FOR JUST ONE NIGHT...

NEXT MORNIN' WOKE SAFE AN' SOUND...IT WAS CALM, AN' MY ANCHOR WAS AWEIGH... BUT I HAIN'T HAULED *IT* UP... NOPE, IT WAS TH' ***ISLAND*** THAT WAS GONE! NOT A TRACE OF IT!

LEMME SEE... HOW MANY YEARS AGO WAS IT? SEAS WERE GETTIN' ROUGH AN' I WAS LOST. SHELTERED BY AN ISLAND... DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT FROM THE CHARTS. RODE OUT THE STORM THERE...

...BUT THOSE PEOPLE NEVER COME BACK. RUMOR HAS IT IT'S FULL OF GIANT APES...

THEY SAY THE *ONLY* WAY TO REACH IT IS TO ACTUALLY SPOT THE ISLAND FROM A BOAT, AND THEN LAND...

BY DAY, YOU MIGHT PICK IT UP AS A BLIP ON THE RADAR... BUT WHEN YOU GET TO THAT LOCATION... **NOTHING.**

NOW YOU MENTION IT... PEOPLE **DO** SOMETIMES SIGHT A LIGHT-HOUSE OUT AT SEA BY NIGHT, EVEN WHERE THERE'S NO LAND CLOSE.

SORRY, MAN.

DON'T BELIEVE HIM, MIKURA. HE'S JUST WINDING YOU UP.

SURE I KNOW IT.

SURE DO. YEP. KNOW IT WELL.

...OCEAN USED TO BE *FULL* OF 'EM!

DON'T KNOW ABOUT NOW, BUT...

YEAH... I SEEN IT, TOO.

MIRAGE ISLAND ...?

THAT WAS A LOOOOONG TIME AGO.

BACK WHEN I WAS A KID, THOUGH.

IT WAS ONE STEAM BATH OF A SUMMER. COULDN'T SLEEP FOR THE HEAT.

ONE NIGHT I WENT TO SPLASH SOME WATER ON MY FACE...

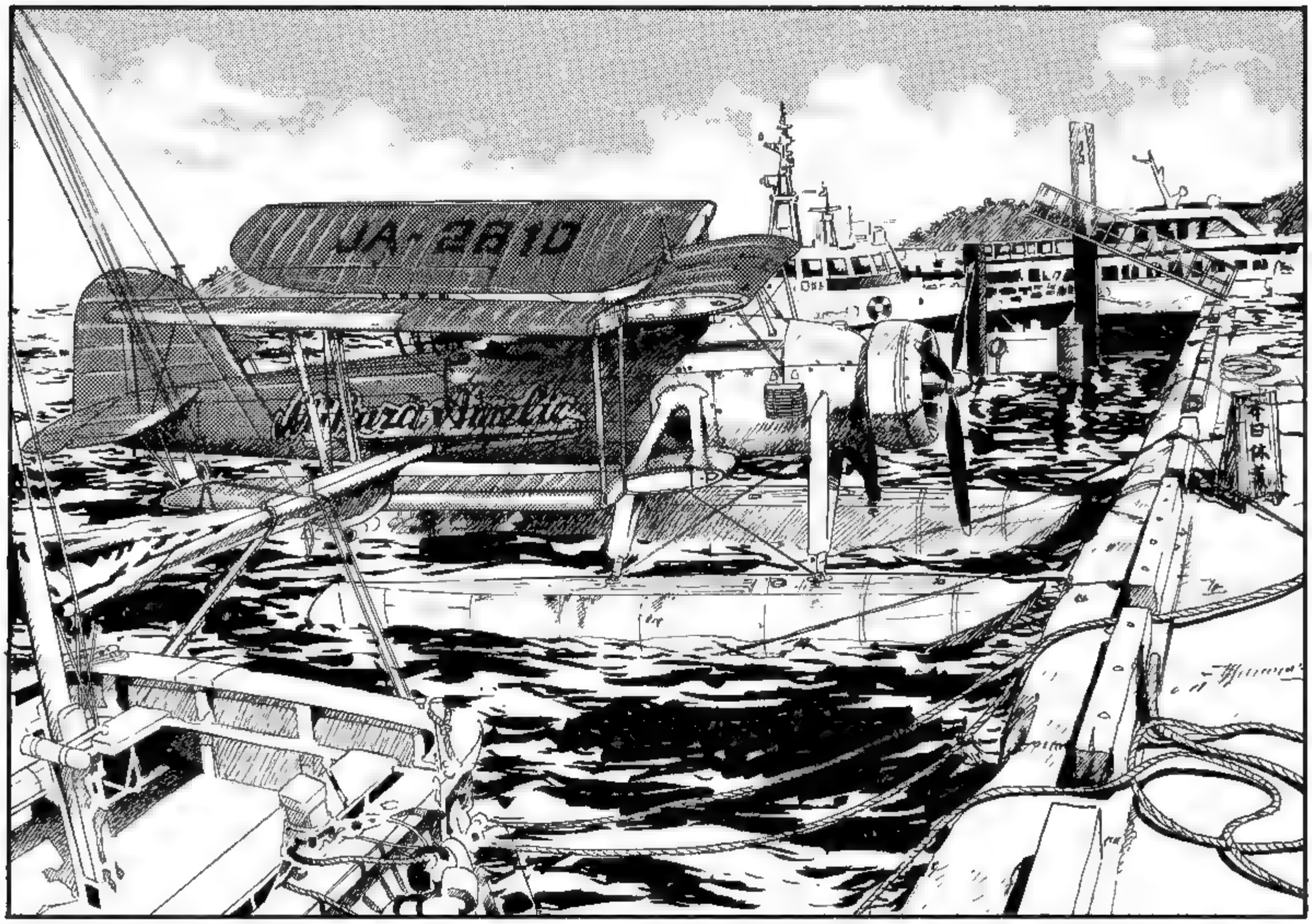
...I GLANCE OUT THE WINDOW...

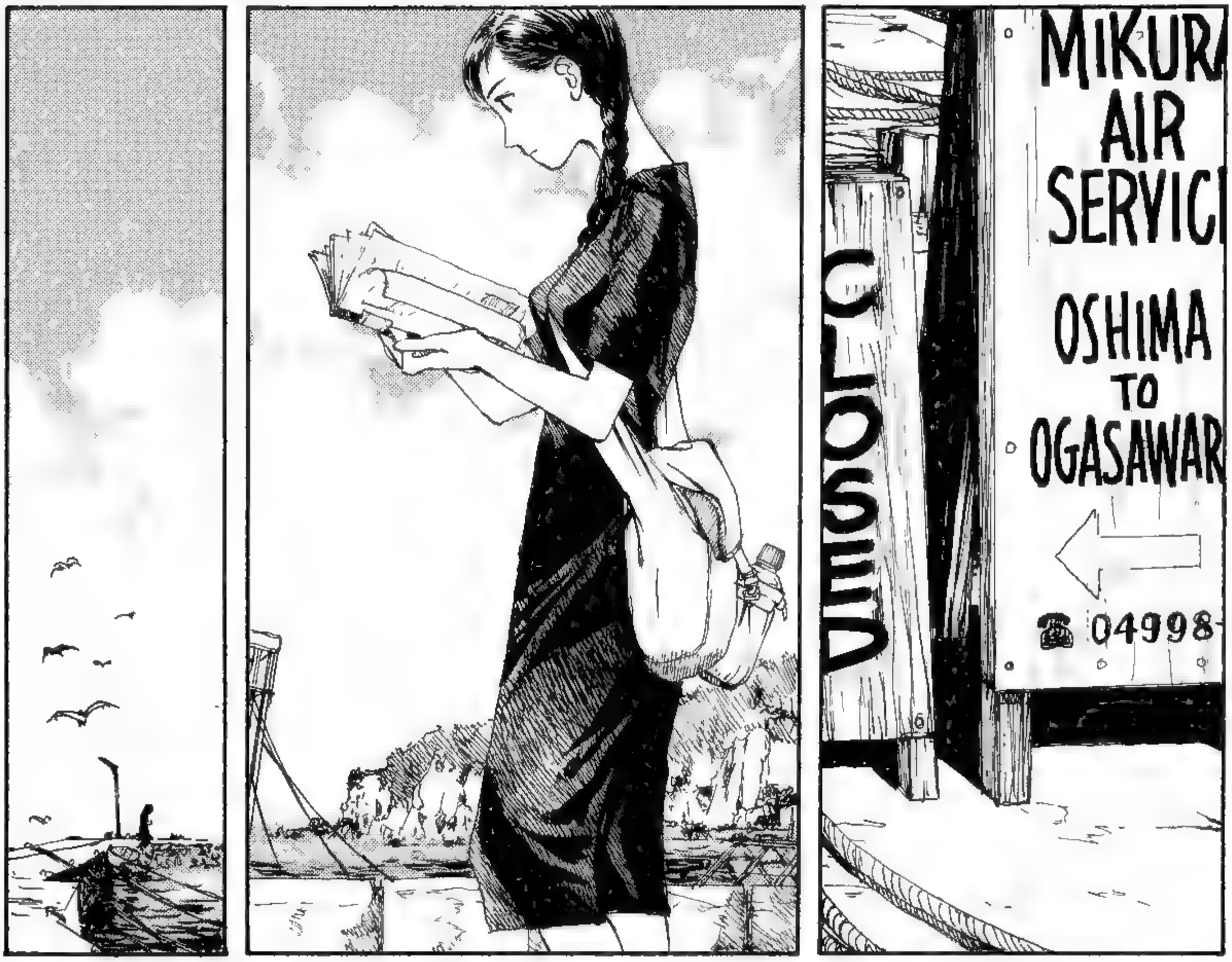
AND I SAW IT.

WHERE IN THE DAY THERE HAD BEEN NOTHING BUT OCEAN.

WHEN THE SUN CAME UP... IT WAS GONE.

YOU'D THINK THE GROWNUPS WOULD HAVE LAUGHED AT ME...BUT THEY JUST NODDED...


JA-2810


MIKURA
AIR
SERVICE
OSHIMA
TO
OGASAWARA
04998

June 30
Electric Island closes on

July 1
Electric Island 1992 closes
approach to Ogasawara

July 1
Electric Island closes on approach to Ogasawara
Pick up modified anchor

July 2
Leave for Electric Island
Contact Cpt Morita at Alaska Maru
Get maps, anchor, GPS, radios

EH...?!

...THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...

BUT...

June 30
Electric Island clos

July 1
Electric Island 199
approach to Ogasawar

...THE ENTRIES GO ON *AFTER* GRANDPA DIED!

JULY 2...?

THAT'S *TODAY!*

TODAY...

ELECTRIC ISLAND

July 7
Electric Island closest approach to Chichijima
Pick up modified anchor

"JULY 2: LEAVE FOR ELECTRIC ISLAND ...?"

July 2
Leave for Electric Island
Contact Cpt. Morita of Akashi Maru No. 4
get maps, wireless, GPS, rations

Leave for Chichijima with Mikura

"What's most difficult is distinguishing it from whale pods.

"It's extremely difficult to locate Electric Island via radar, but not impossible.

"July 4: Second day searching for Electric Island with wave radar.

"July 5: Third day. Electric Island's closest approach to Torishima from the south.

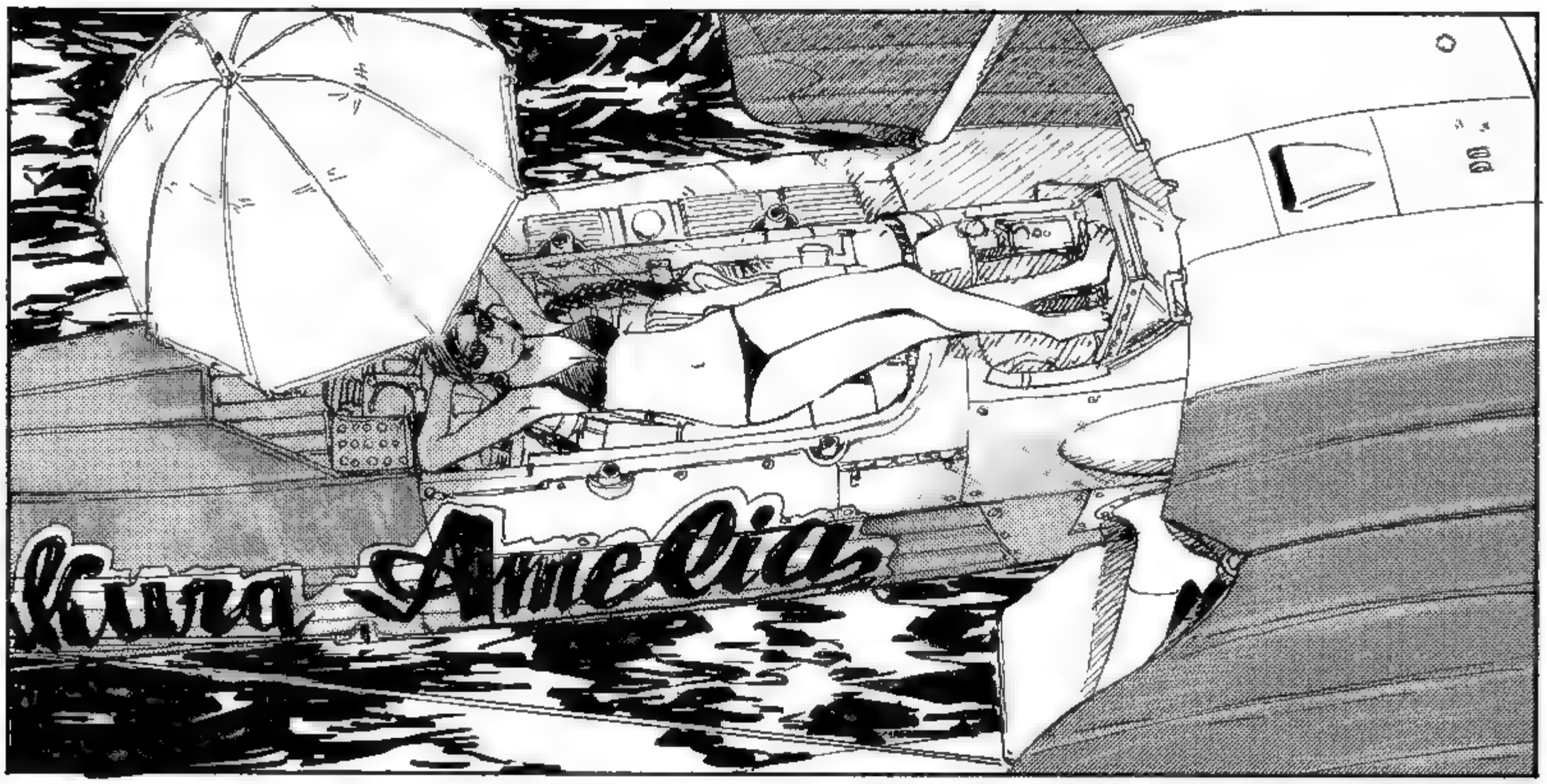
"Locate whale pods with radar, check all pods between 100 and 200 meters in diameter.

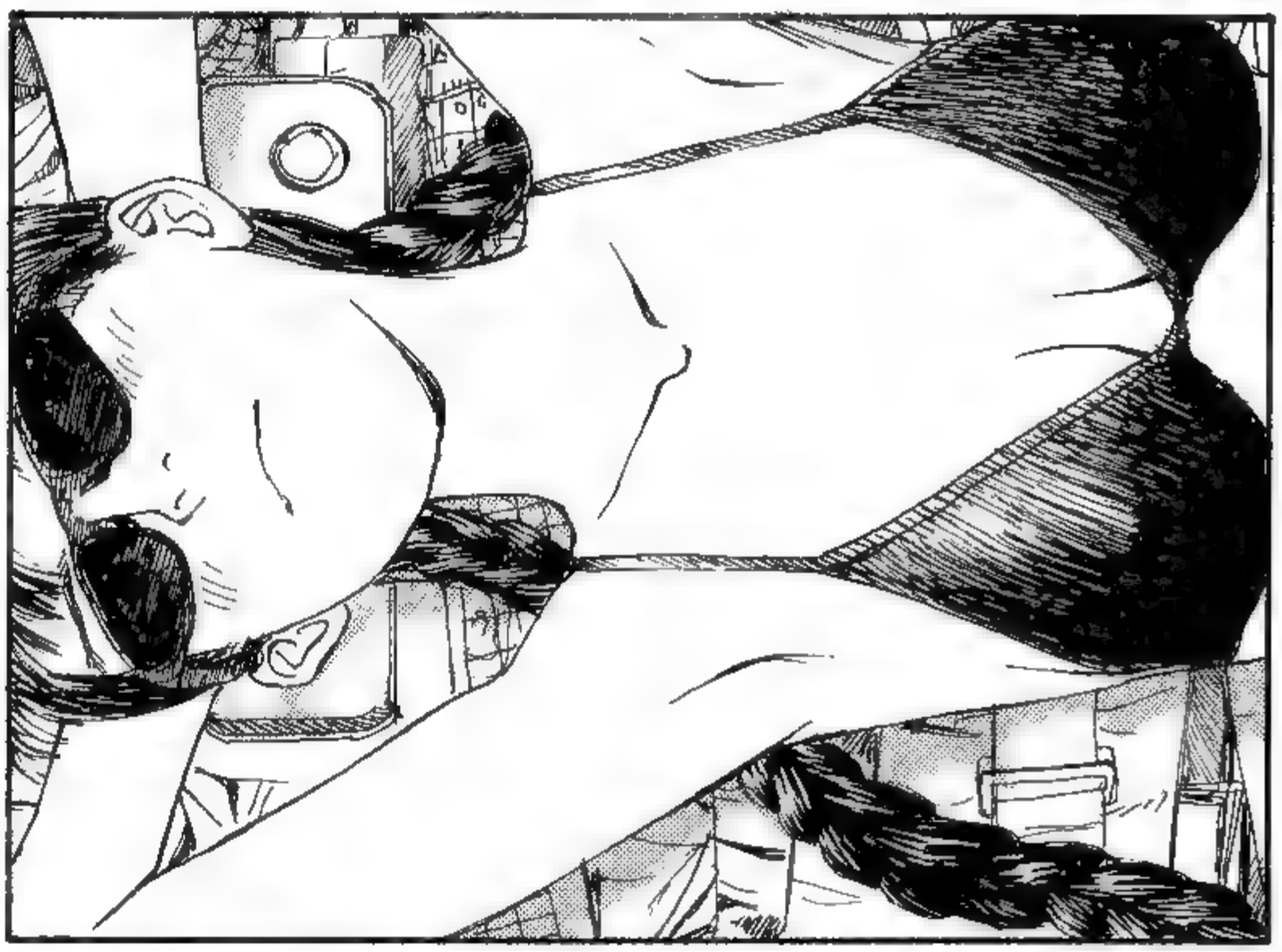
"One of those pods will be Electric Island.

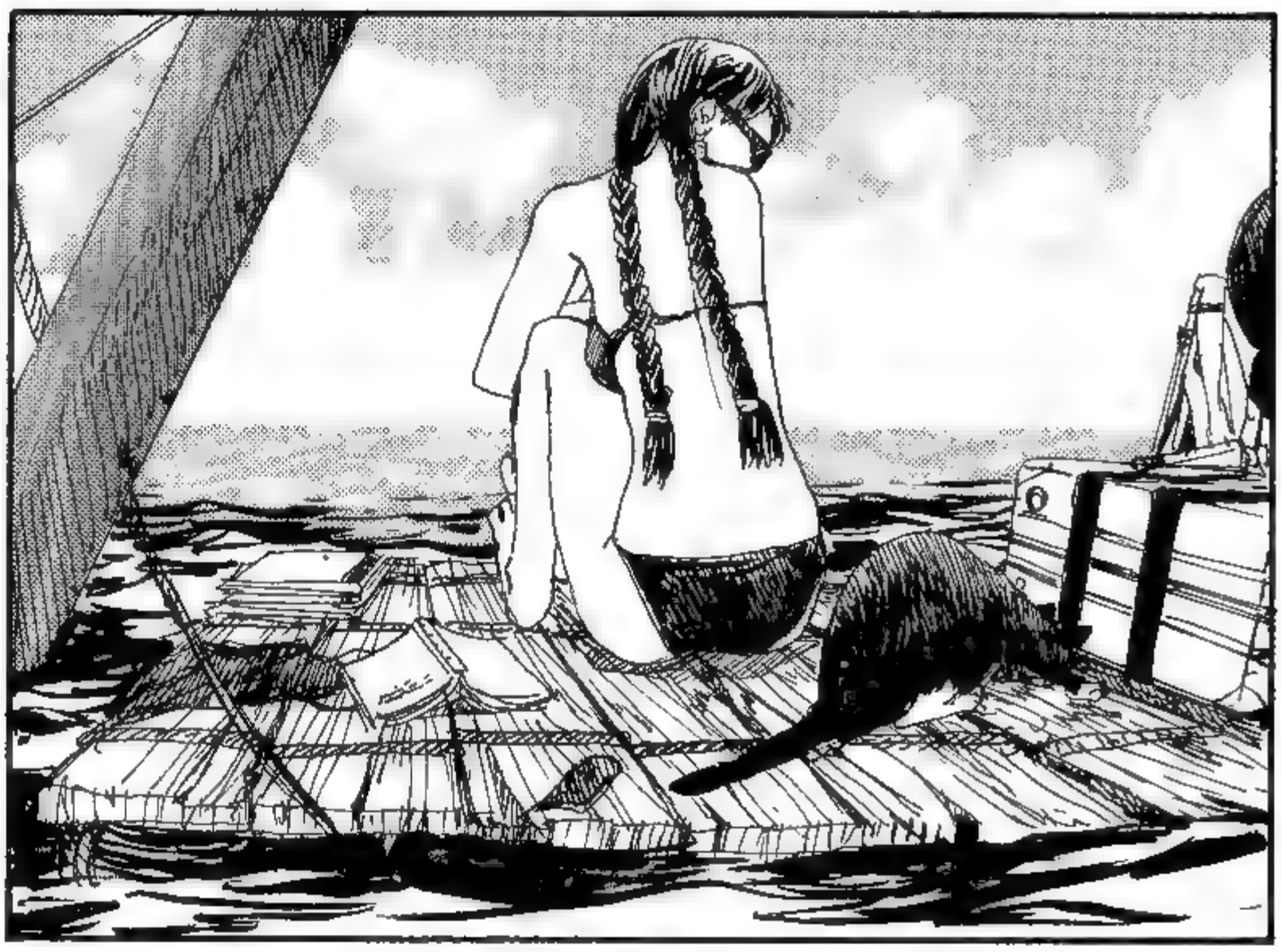
"Patiently.

"Just wait."

"Then wait.


Kuna Amelia





MIURA'S LOG, JULY 5. CLEAR.

MADE RENDEZVOUS WITH TETSU THE RADAR MAN AND NOW CRUISING OFF TOSHIMA OR, MORE LIKE DRIFTING SOUTH.

IT'S ALREADY BEEN THREE DAYS, GRANDPA.

UH-OH...

...SHOW-TIME! *SHOW-TIME!*

DO YOU READ?! OVER!

HEY! MIKURA!!

AH, THAT'S A ROGER, TETSU. THIS IS MIKURA. YOU CATCH SOMETHING? OVER.

SOUNDS LIKE WORK.

GOT A SQUAWK FROM THE BOSS AT TSUTSUMI DELIVERY. WANTS YOU TO MAKE A SPECIAL RUN, HACHIJOJIMA TO HAHAJIMA.

TOLD'M YOU'RE STILL IN MOURNING, BUT...

...WHAT SHOULD I SAY? OVER.

...IF IT'S THE BOSS, I CAN'T SAY NO.

GEE...

I GUESS I BETTER HEAD BACK. OVER.

HOLD ON A SEC...

...

GOT A TRACE ON THE RADAR. BEARING ONE THIRTY, RANGE ONE HUNDRED NAUTICAL MILES.

MIKURA? YOU LISTENING?

...IT'S A BIG ONE. 150 METERS ACROSS.

MUST BE TWENTY WHALES, AT LEAST ...?

I THINK IT'S A WHALE POD BUT...

SORRY, SORRY! TELL BOSS SEIJURO I'LL HEAD THERE AS SOON AS I'M FINISHED!!!

OVER AND OUT!!

...!

July 5 . Third da

Electric Island's closest app

Locate whale pods with radar

check all pods between 100 a

in diameter. One of th

will be Electri

WE'RE HEADING OUT!

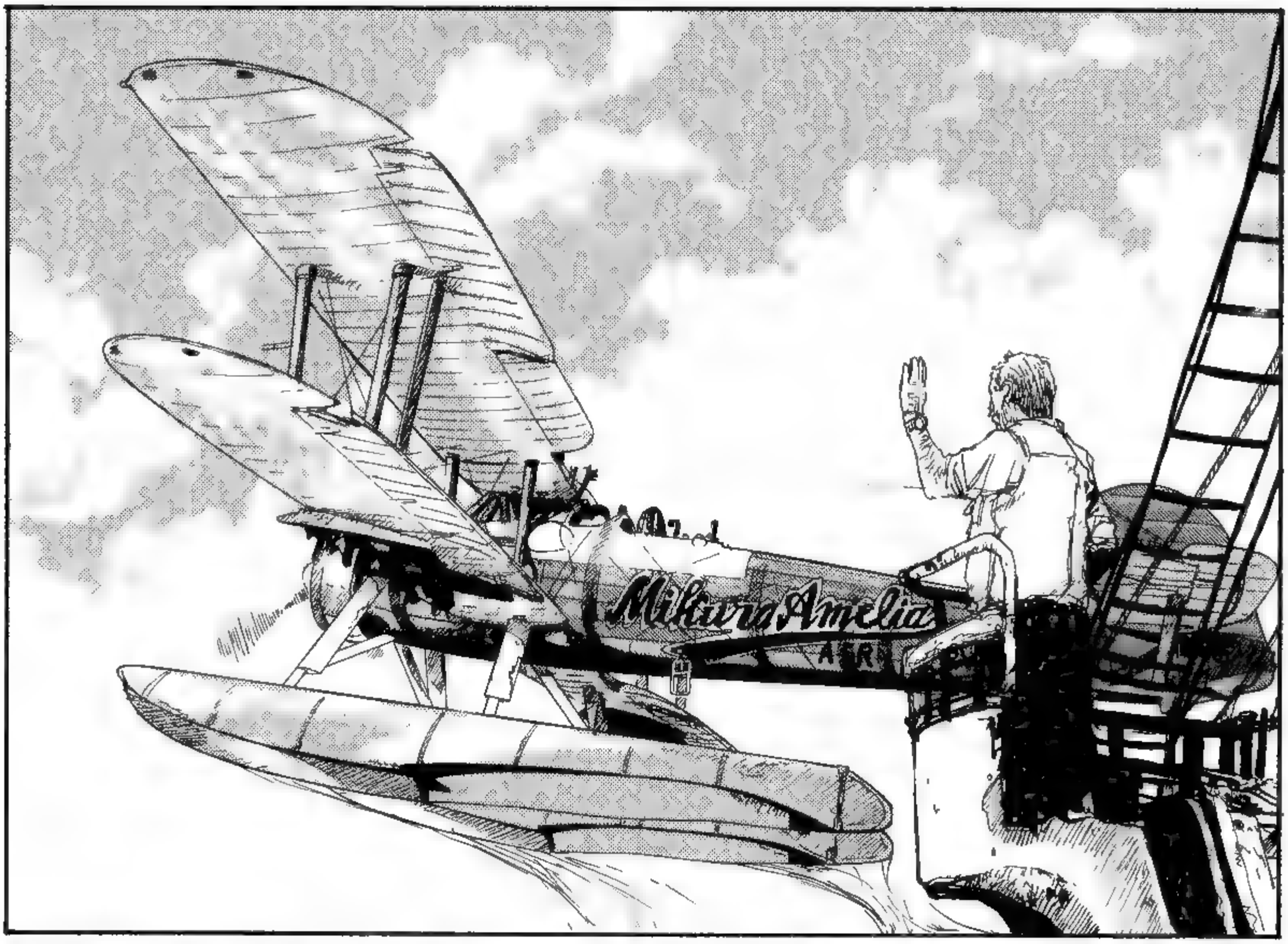
C'MON, ENDEAVOUR!

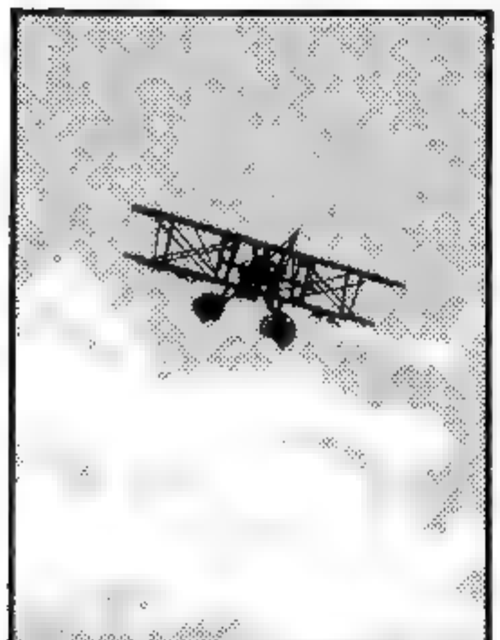
MIKURA SATO

JA-2E

Mikura Airways

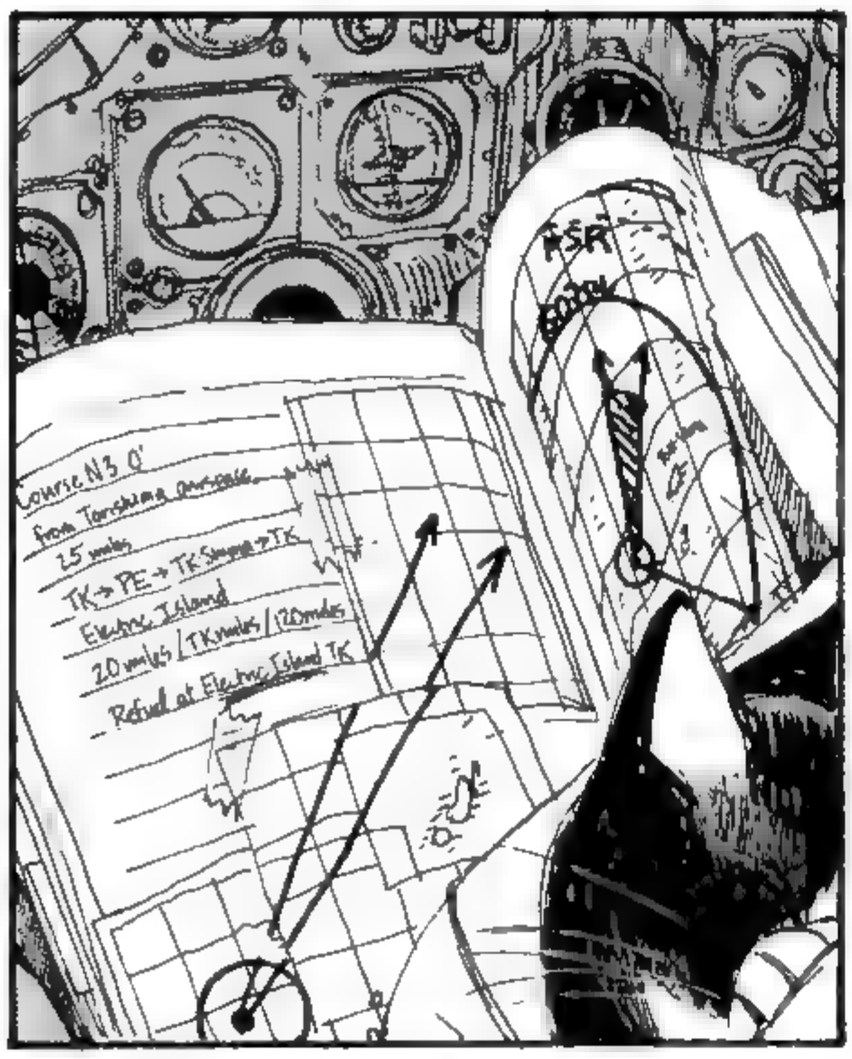
AIR SERVICE

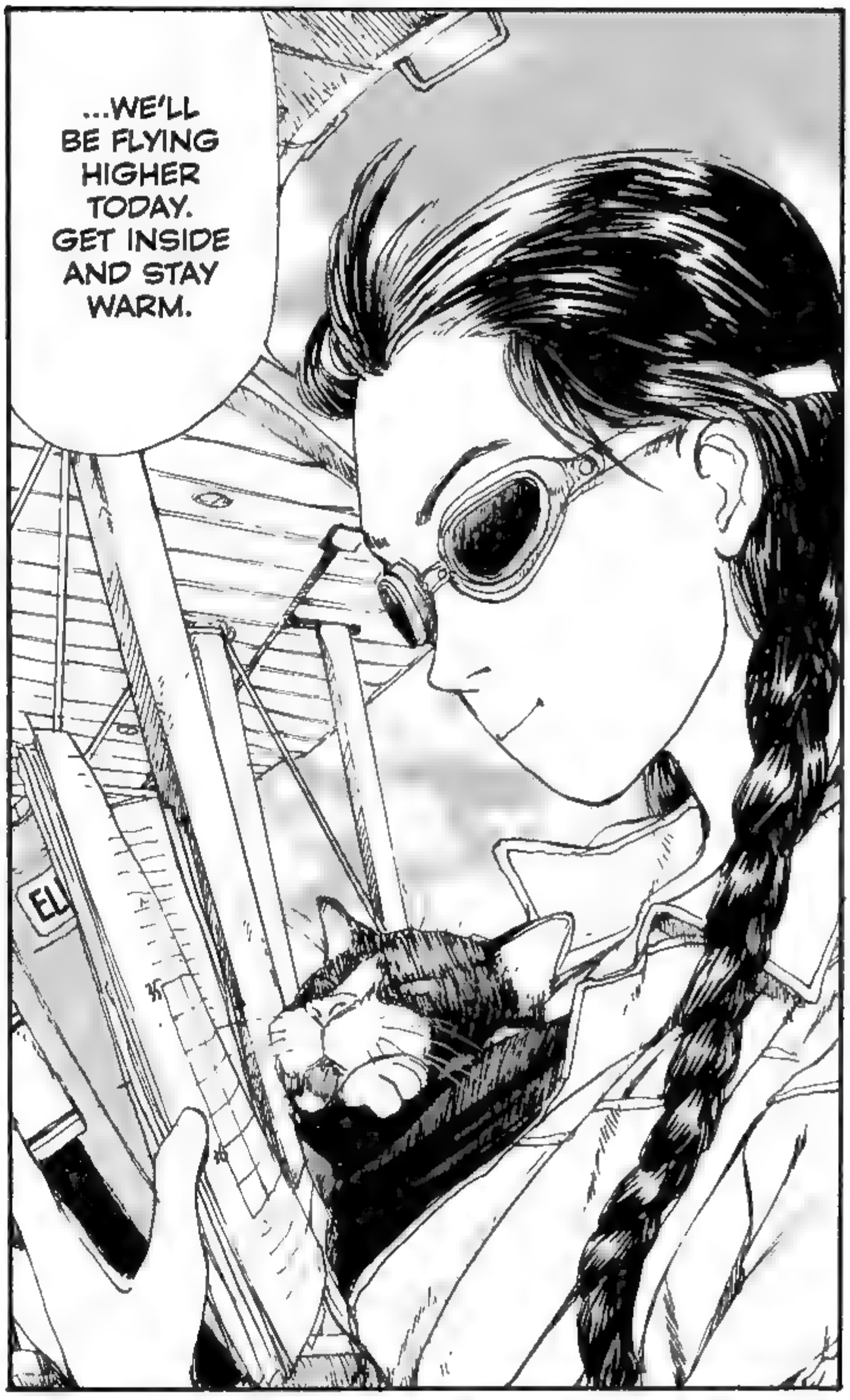

Milvia Amelia
A R

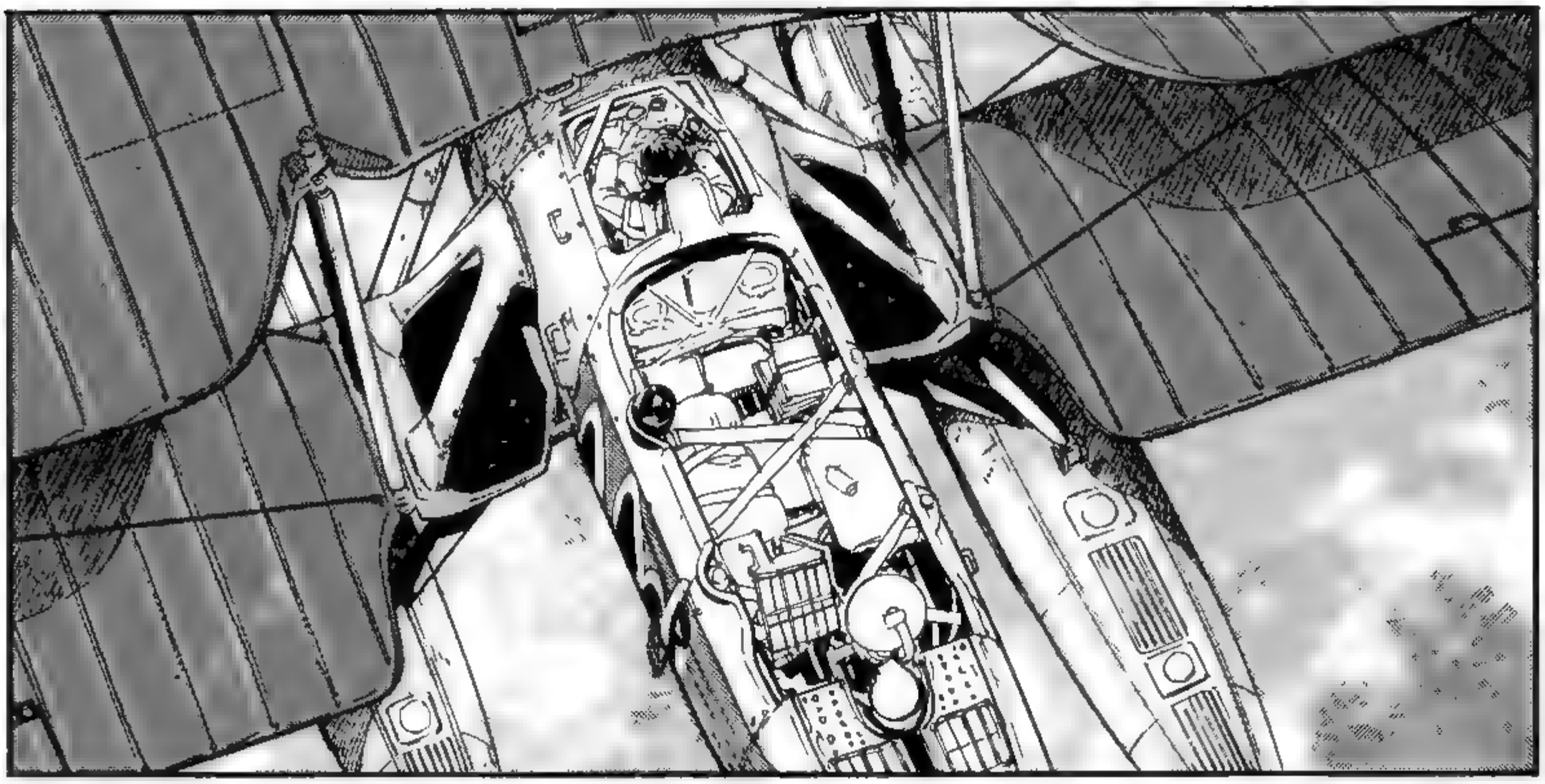


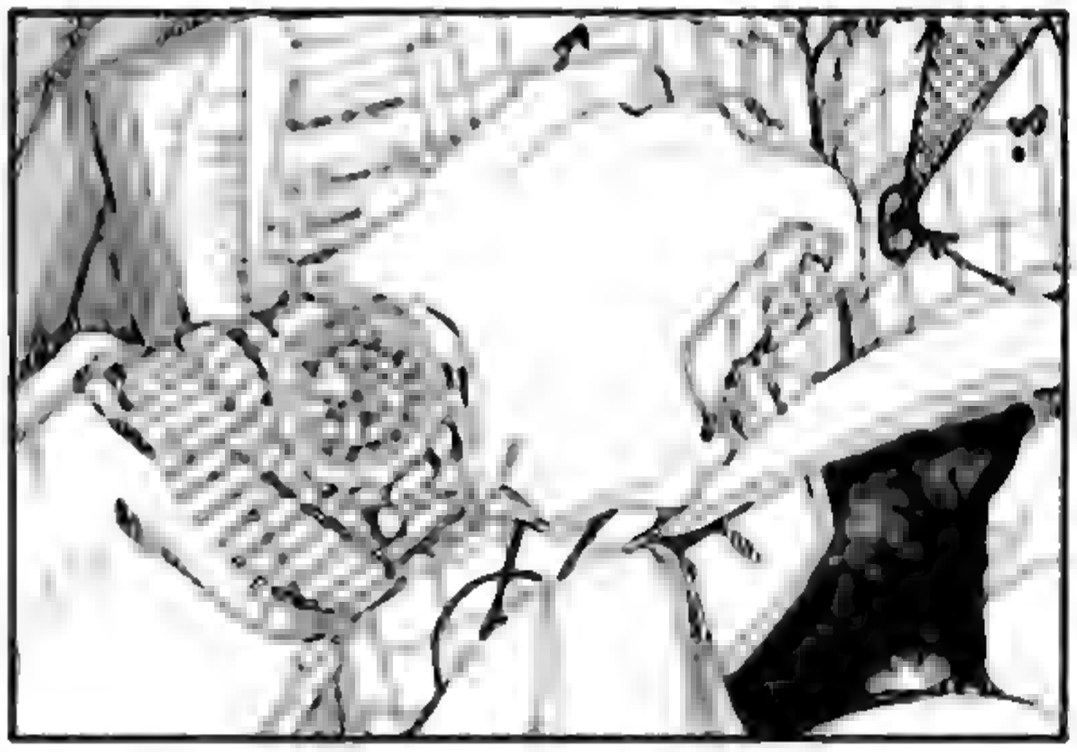
SEE YOU LATER!!

ELECTRIC ISLAND
SEARCH RECORD


Course N3 0°
from Tanshima Junction
2.5 miles
TK → PE → TK Station → TK
Electric Island
20 miles / TK miles / 120 miles
Refuel at Electric Island TK


...WE'LL BE FLYING HIGHER TODAY. GET INSIDE AND STAY WARM.





SUNSET IS AT 18:30. I'VE GOT JUST ENOUGH TIME TO RETURN FOR FUEL, THEN MAKE THE DELIVERY...

OH, WELL. BACK TO WORK.

HACHIJOJIMA TO HAHAJIMA, HUH...?

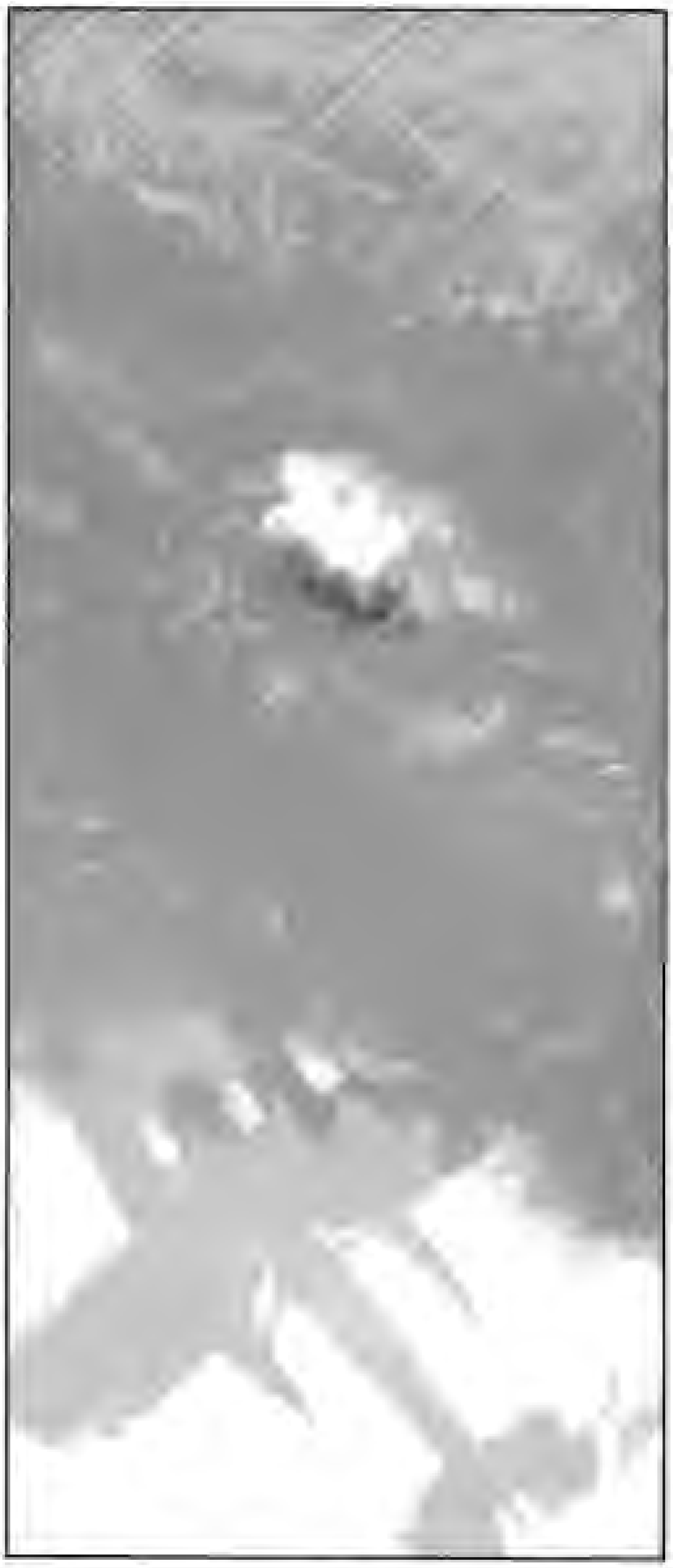
SORRY FOR THE DELAY. I'LL BE THERE SOON.

AH! HELLO?! BOSS SEIJURO ...?

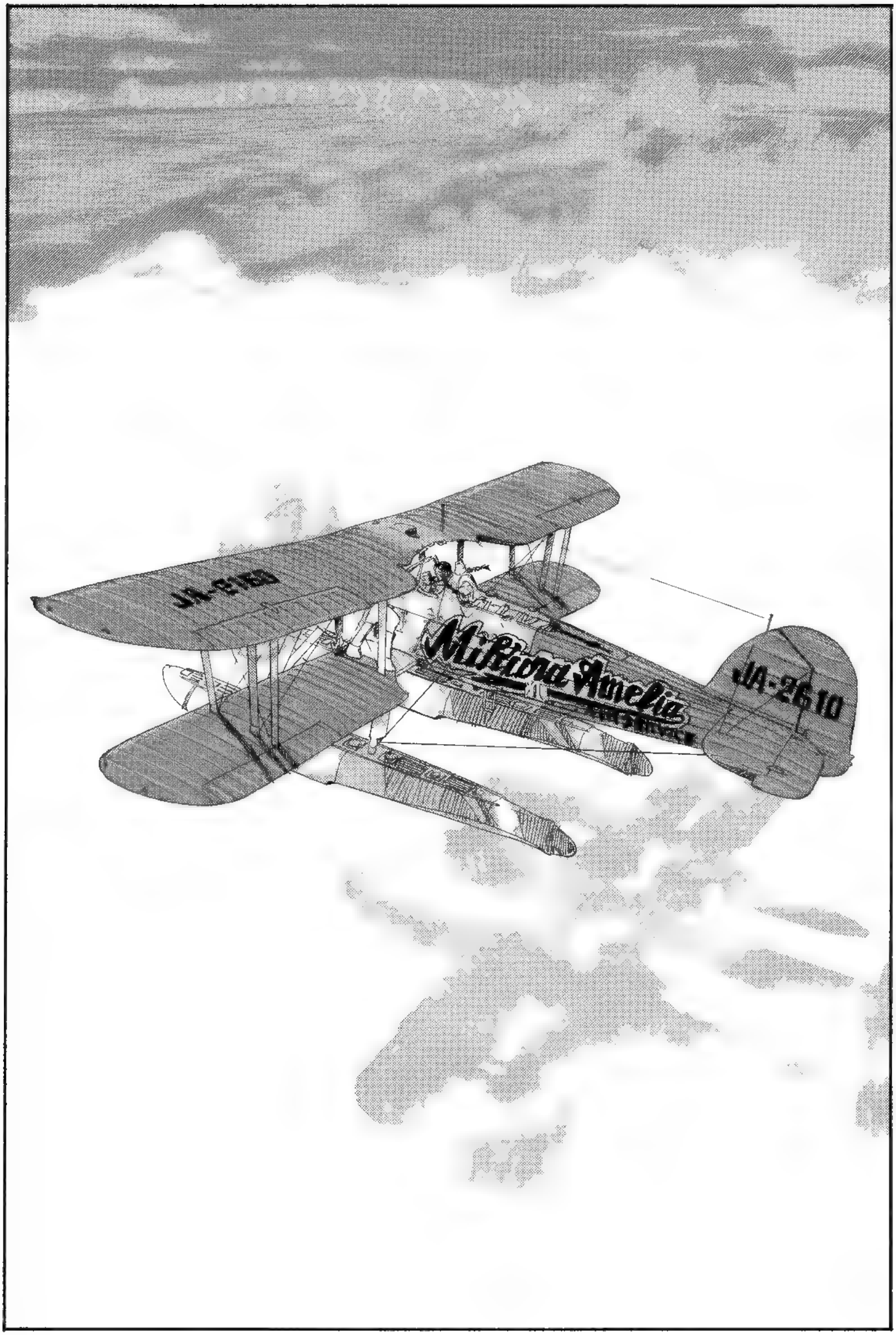
...ROGER!

I CAN'T FLY AFTER DARK, SO THE RETURN LEG WILL BE TOMORROW. IS THAT...?

...LOOKS LIKE I'VE STRUCK OUT...



THAT
CLOUD


JA-2610
Miriam Amelia

JA-2610

Mikura Amelia
AIR SERVICE

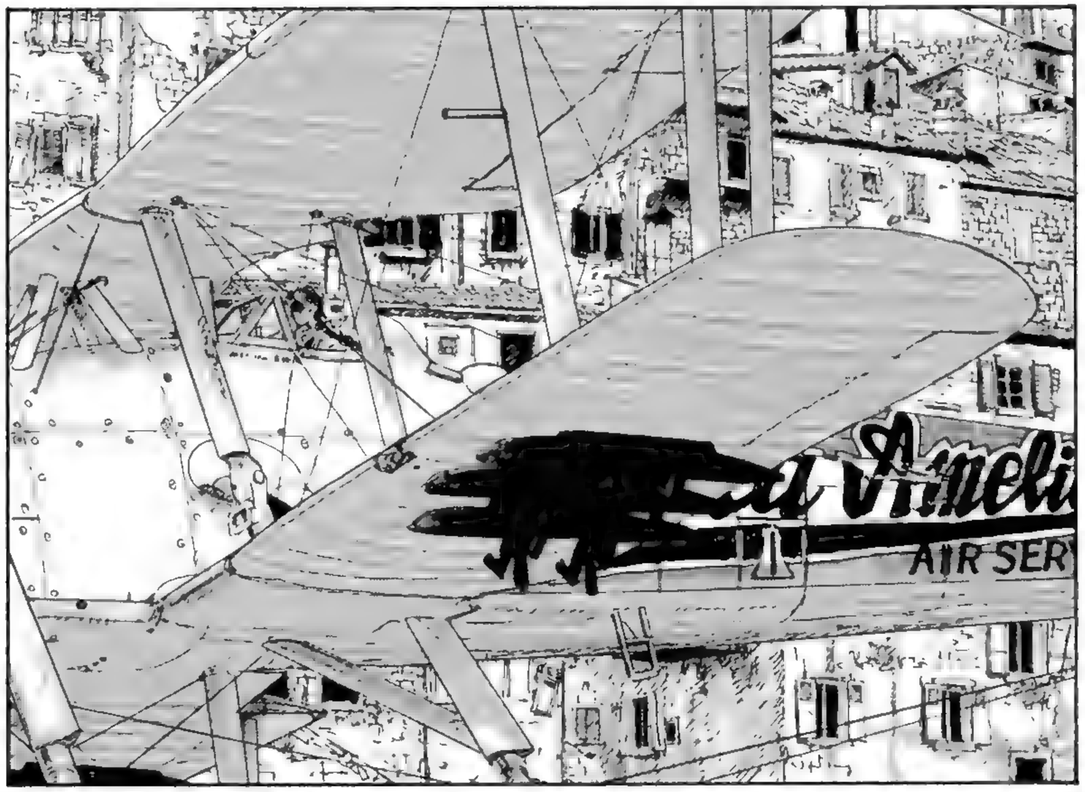
IT'S ELECTRIC ISLAND...

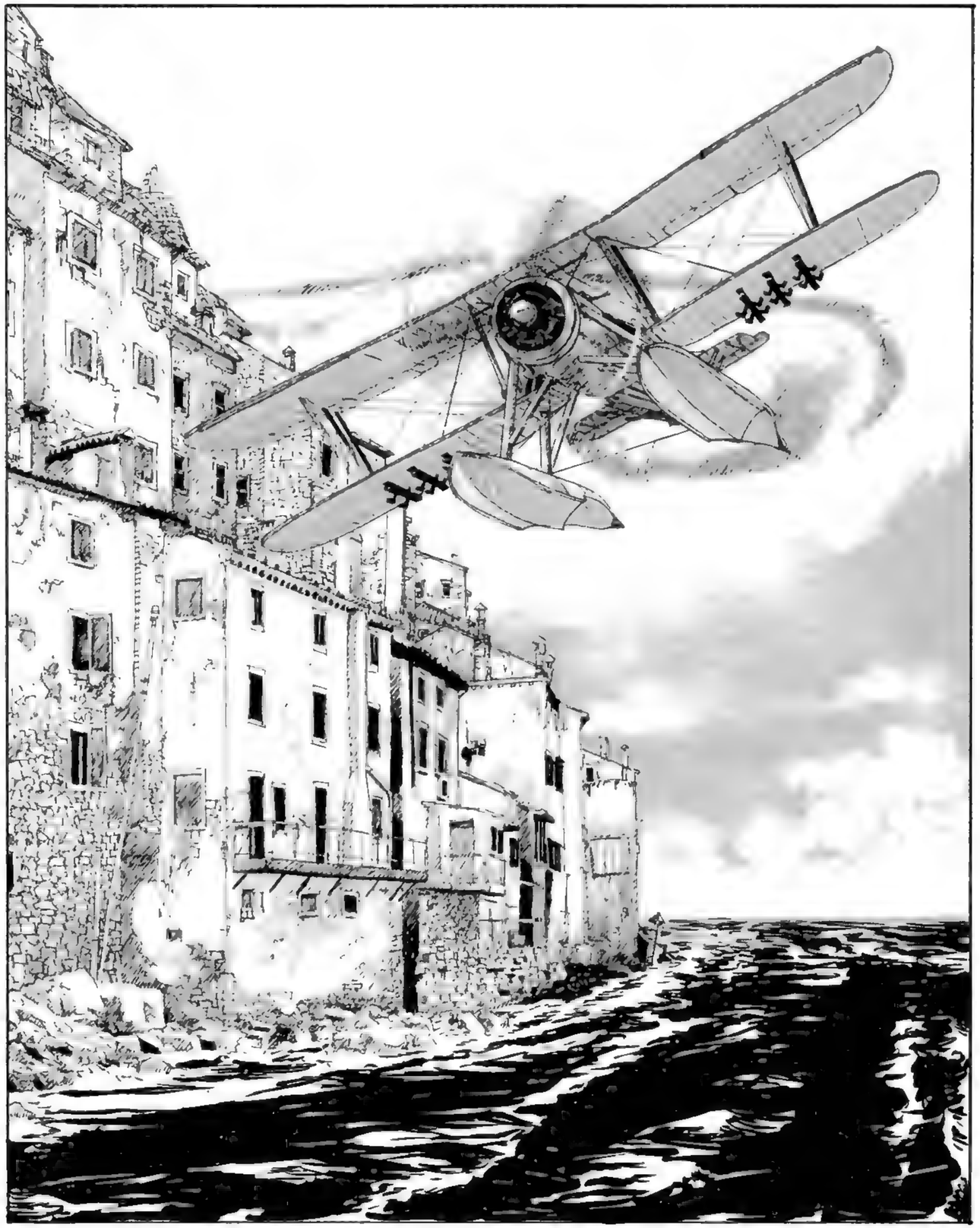
ELECTRIC ISLAND ...!

IT'S *REAL!*

IT REALLY *DOES* EXIST!

ELECTRIC ISLAND !!


AIR SER

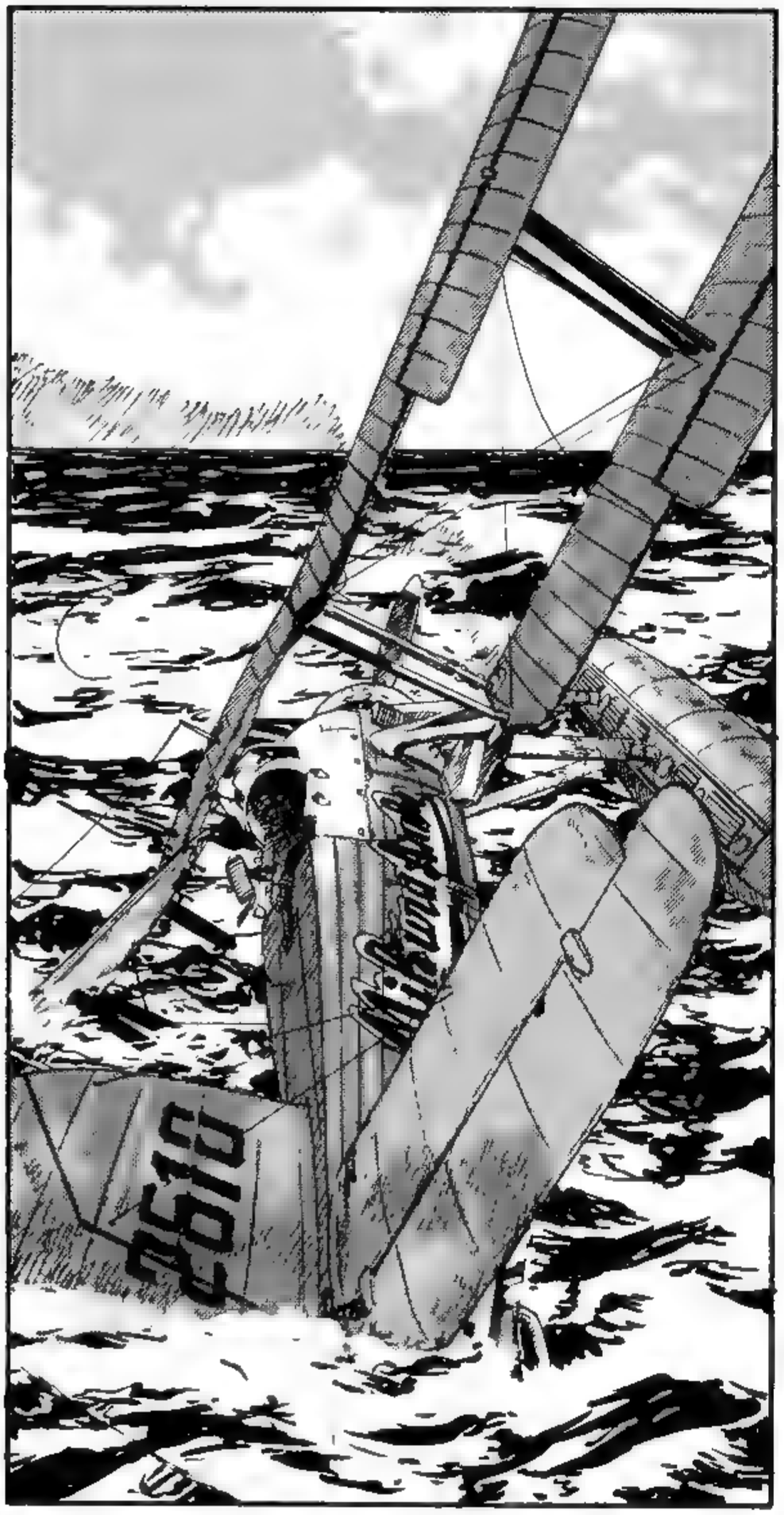


...I'M GOING DOWN FOR A LANDING, ENDEAVOUR!

JA-2610

WHAT THE--

GAAHHH!!
JA-2610
Mikuro Amelia
A/C SERVICE


GOTHAM

FINALLY WOKE UP, MIKURA-CHAN...?

...EN-DEAV-OUR ?!

...I HAD A BAD FEELING, SORTA, SO I FOLLOWED YOU.

TRUTH IS...

TOOK THE LIBERTY OF OPENING SOME CAT FOOD FROM YOUR BAG.

YEAH, WELL.

...YOU RESCUED US, TETSU. THANK YOU.

PICKED UP YOUR DISTRESS BEACON EN ROUTE...

...LUCKED OUT AND SPOTTED YOU... HALF SUBMERGED.

WHAT HAPPENED TO *ELECTRIC ISLAND* ...?!

AND ELECTRIC ISLAND ...?!

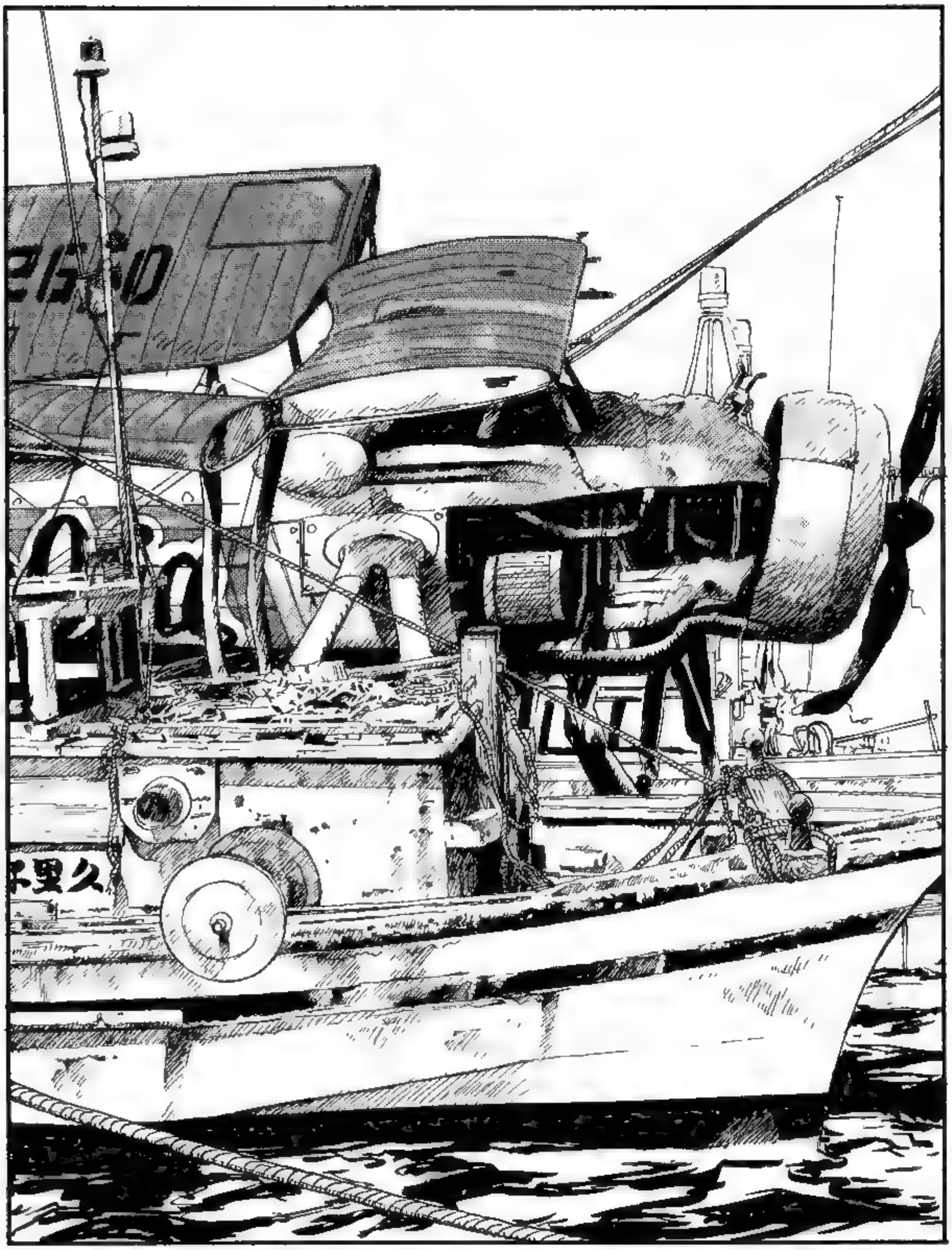
YOU BANGED YOUR *HEAD*, MIKURA. YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T BE SURE OF...WHATEVER YOU THOUGHT YOU SAW.

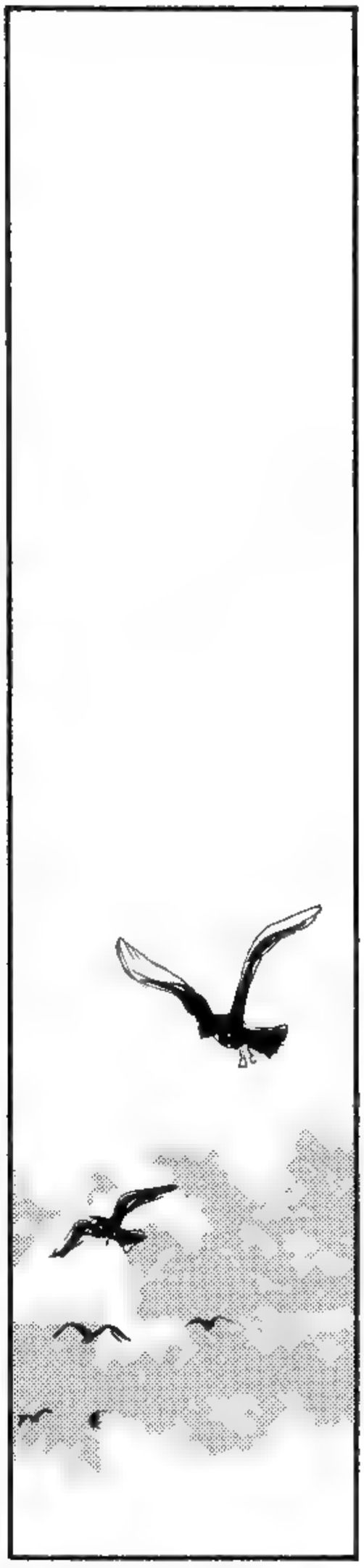
YOU WERE ADRIFT IN OPEN WATER. NO ISLANDS NEARBY.

YOU GO HOME AND REST, GIRL. FORGET ABOUT THE JOB.

NOBODY EXPECTS YOU TO BE WORKING WHILE YOU'RE STILL MOURNING YOUR GRANDPA...

I... I GUESS SO...





UNCLE GEN!

...I FINALLY SAW IT! ELECTRIC ISLAND!

I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES!

NOBODY ELSE WILL BELIEVE ME...!

I GOT SO CLOSE TO *SETTING FOOT ON IT...!*

...

YOU NEVER SAW IT YOUR-SELF...?

WHAT ?!?

S-SOR-RY.

YOU *DIDN'T* ?!

...NOPE, I NEVER DID SEE IT MYSELF.

I WASN'T *LYIN'* T' YOU, EXACTLY... I JUST TOLD YOU A STORY MY GRANDDADDY TOLD ME, WAY BACK WHEN.

...BUT I ADDED SOME DETAILS FOR YA.

THOUGHT I HEARD ABOUT A MIRAGE ISLAND OR SUCH...

JUST A BIT, Y' KNOW...

WHAT?

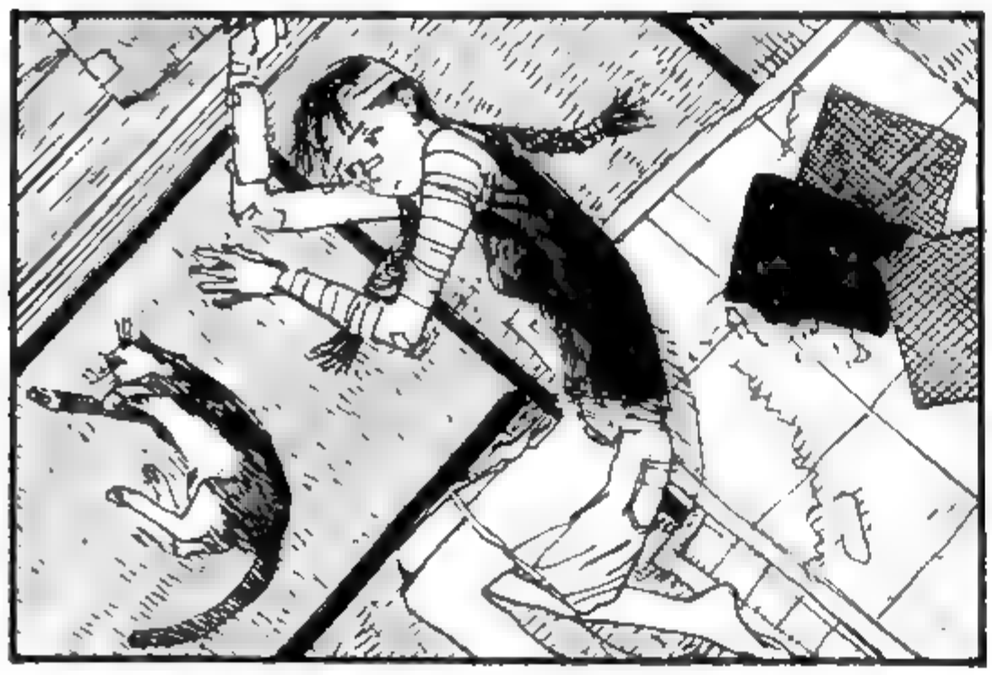
THAT'S *NOT* WHAT YOU SAID!!

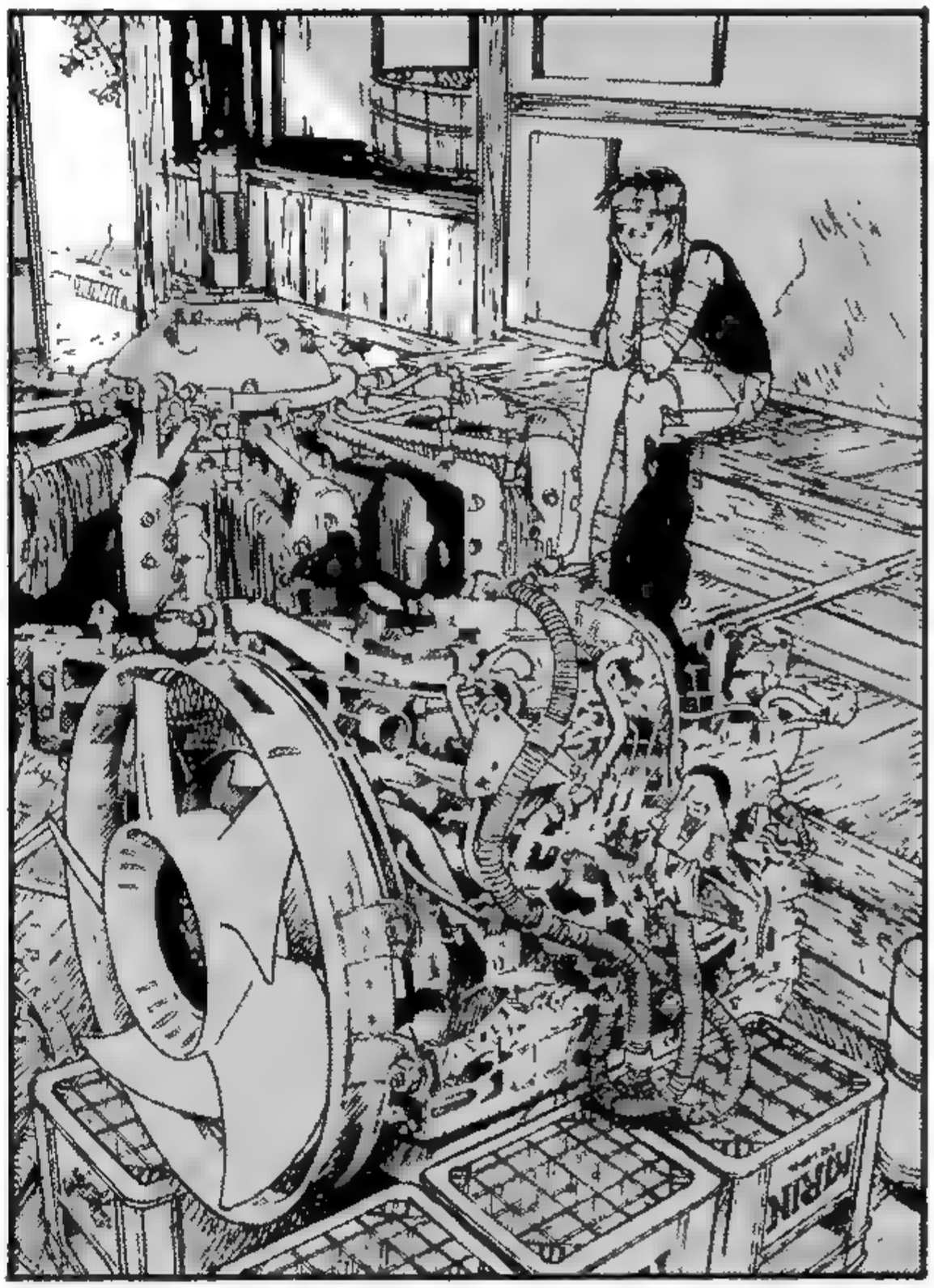
I T-TOLD YOU HE WAS WINDING YOU UP...

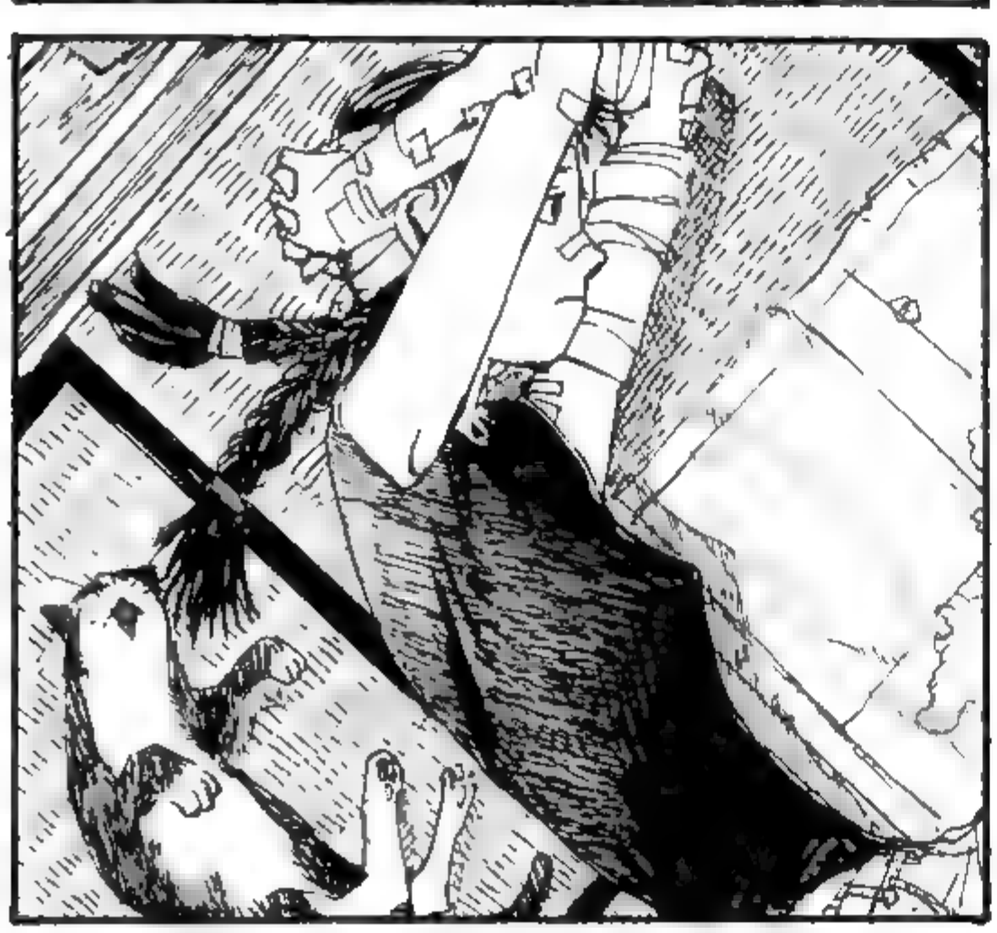
TOLD YA IT DIDN'T HAPPEN T' ME, THOUGH. HEARD IT WHEN I WAS A KID...

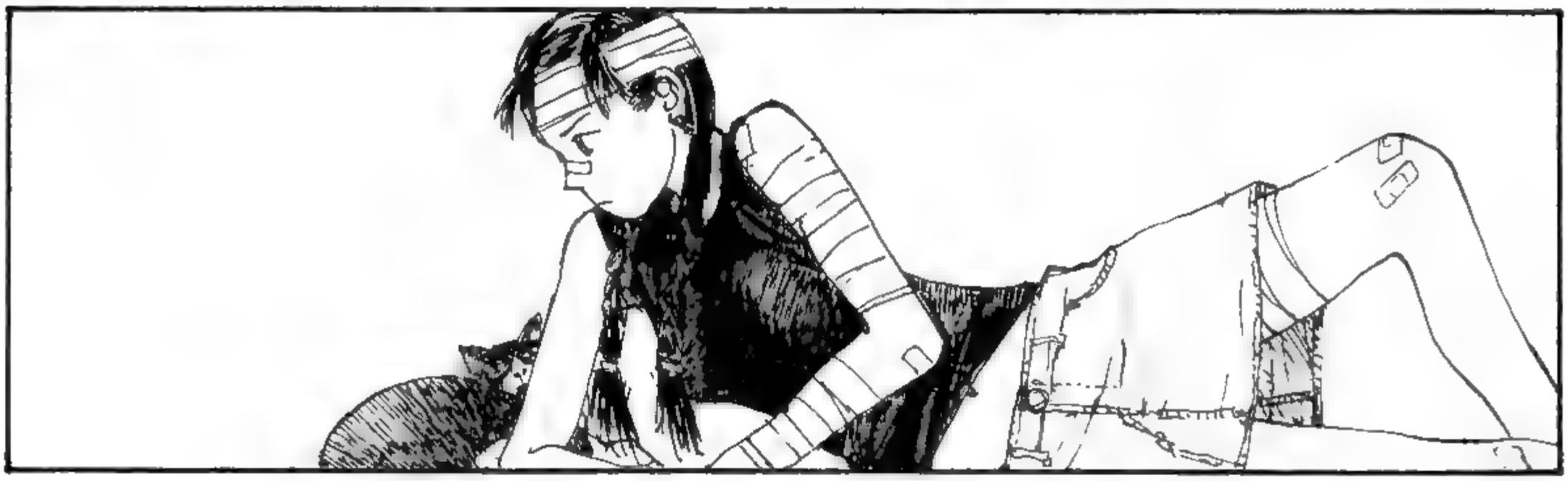
MIRAGE ISLAND? I SAID ALL THAT?

Ms. Amelia
Is Electricheit
Pacific Ocean




MARIN





ONE MORE TRY!

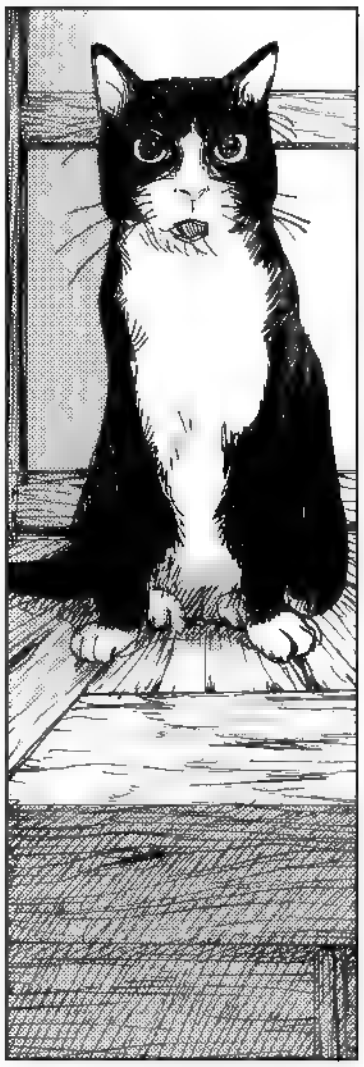
...RIGHT !!

...EVEN IF IT *KILLS* ME...!

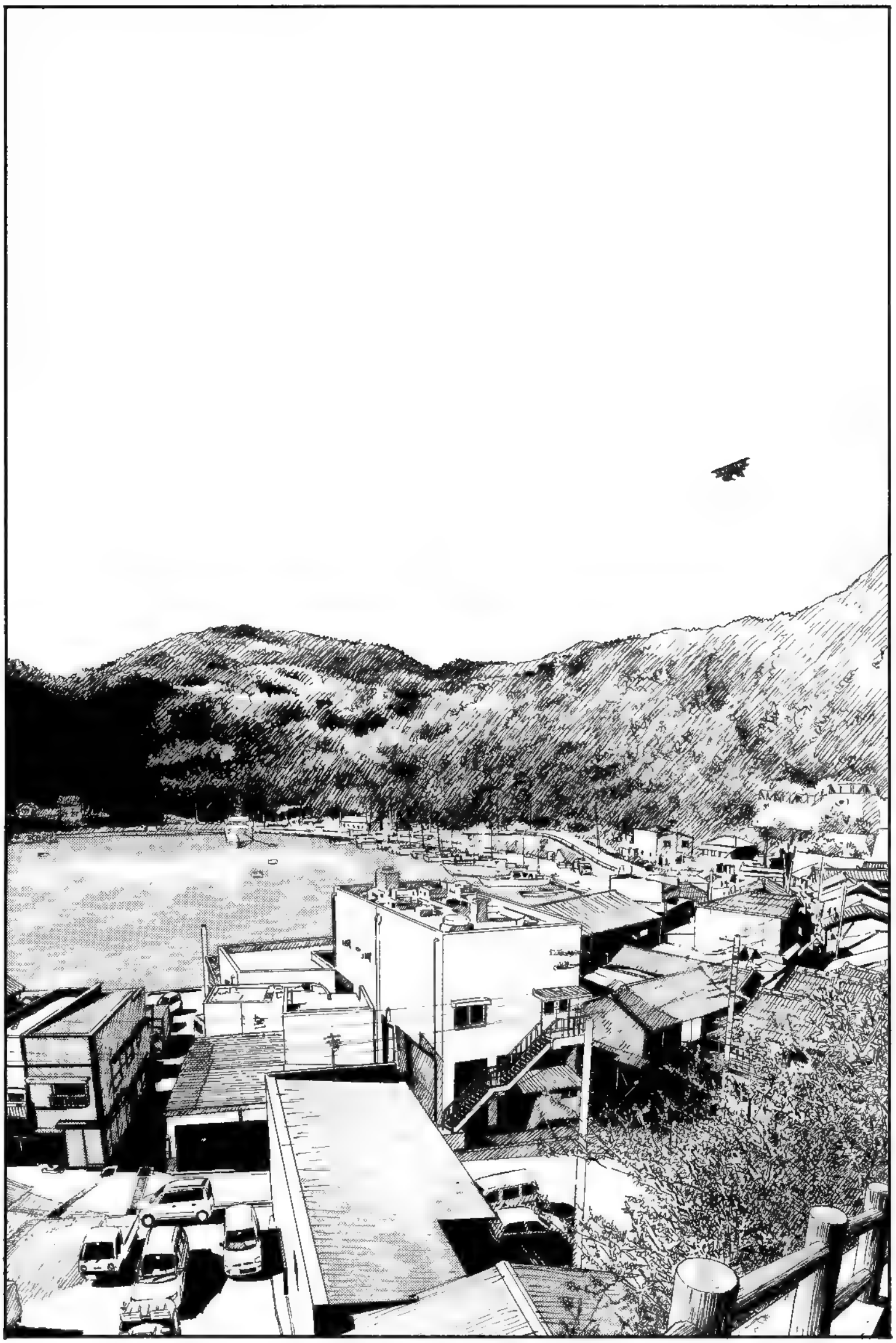
I'LL DELIVER THAT PACKAGE...

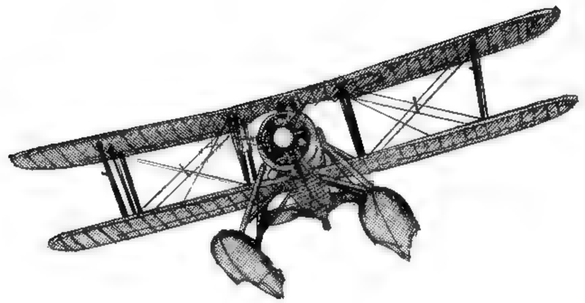
冒険エレキテ島

Wandering island



JA-2
Mikuza Amelia
AIR SERVICE





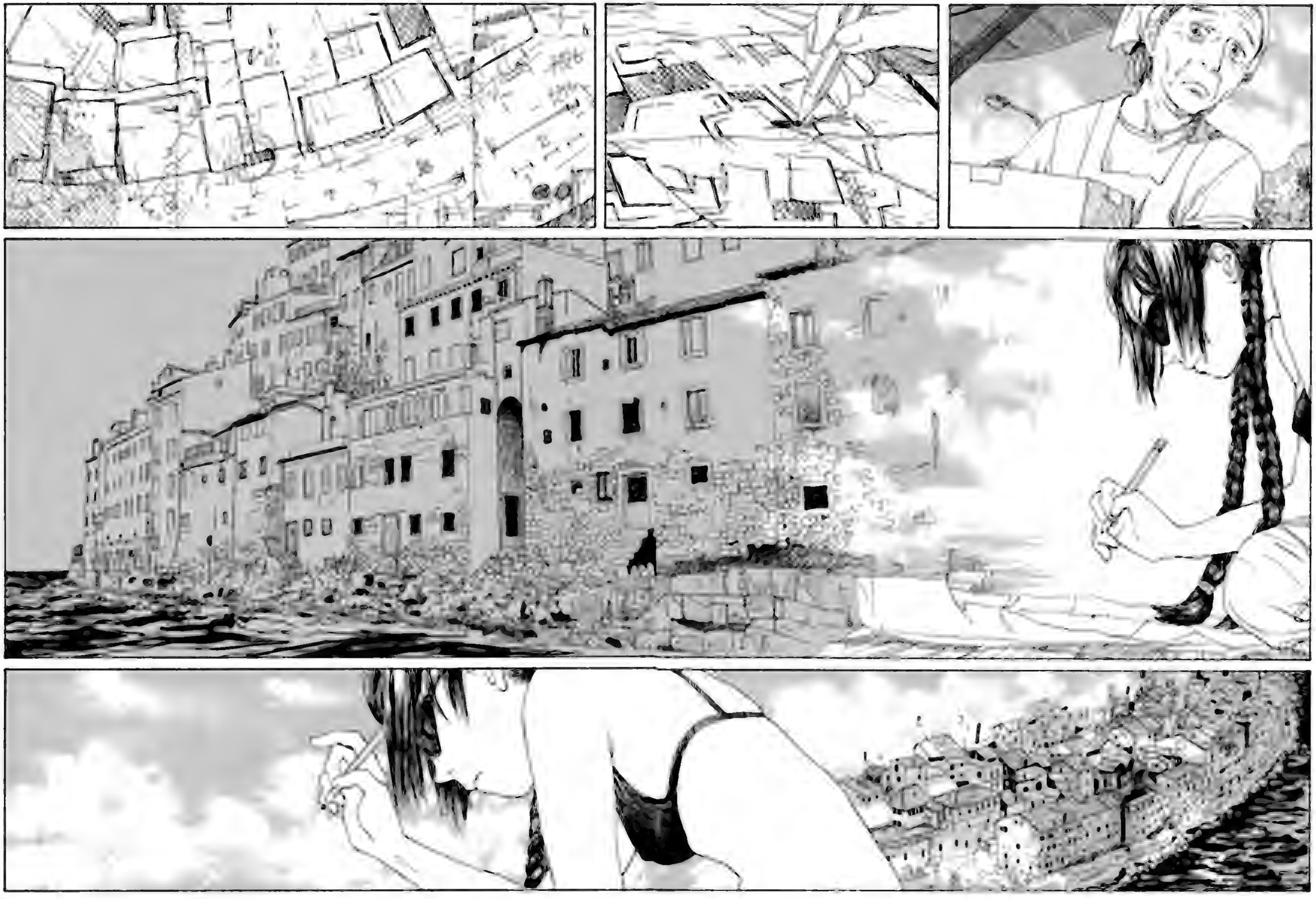
AH...!

THAT ROW OF HOUSES...

ELECTRIC ISLAND

Mikuza Air

JA-
Aurelia
AIR SERVICE
...
OH, THERE YOU ARE, MIKURA, DEAR. CAN YOU DELIVER THIS FOR ME...?
ELECTRIC ISLAND

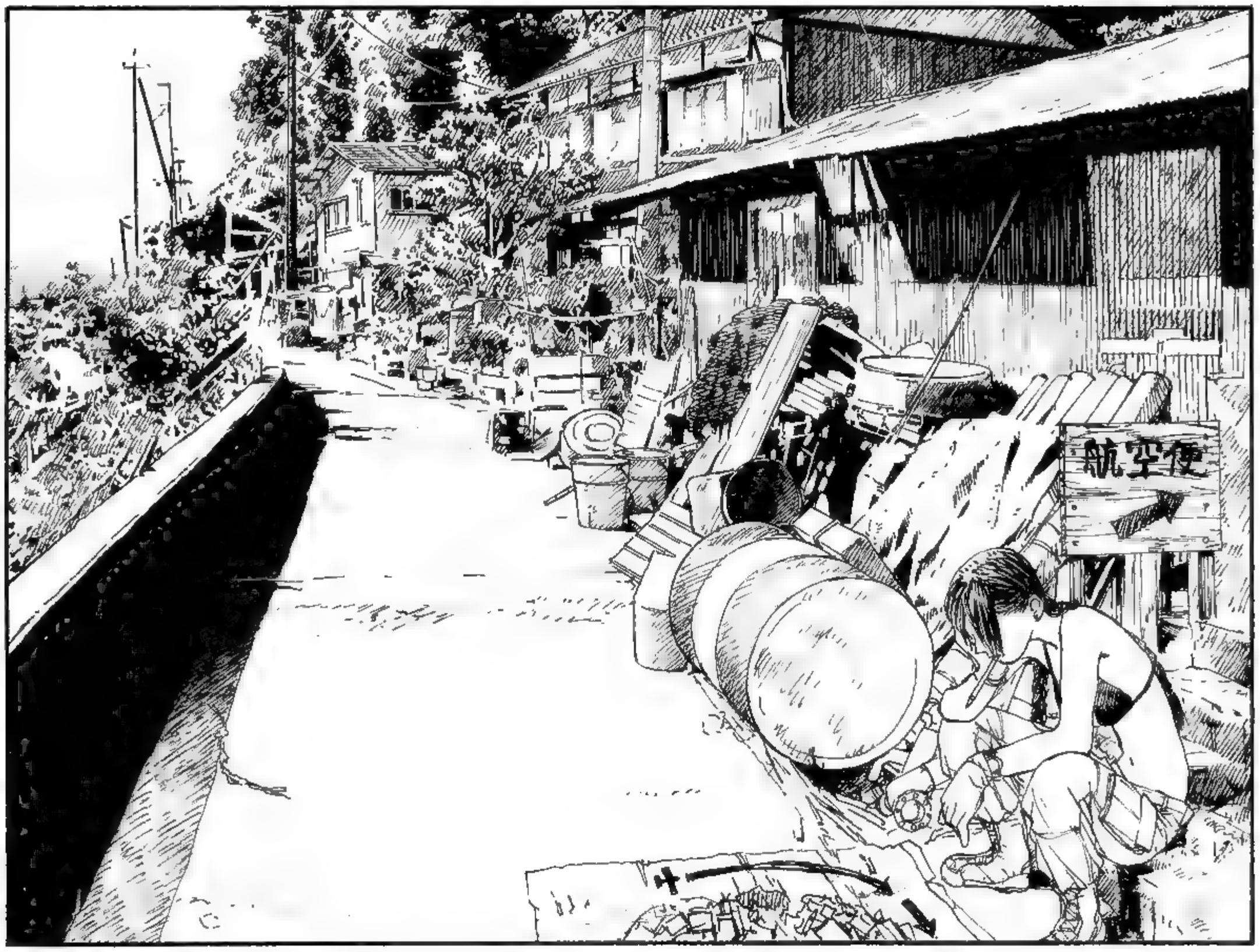


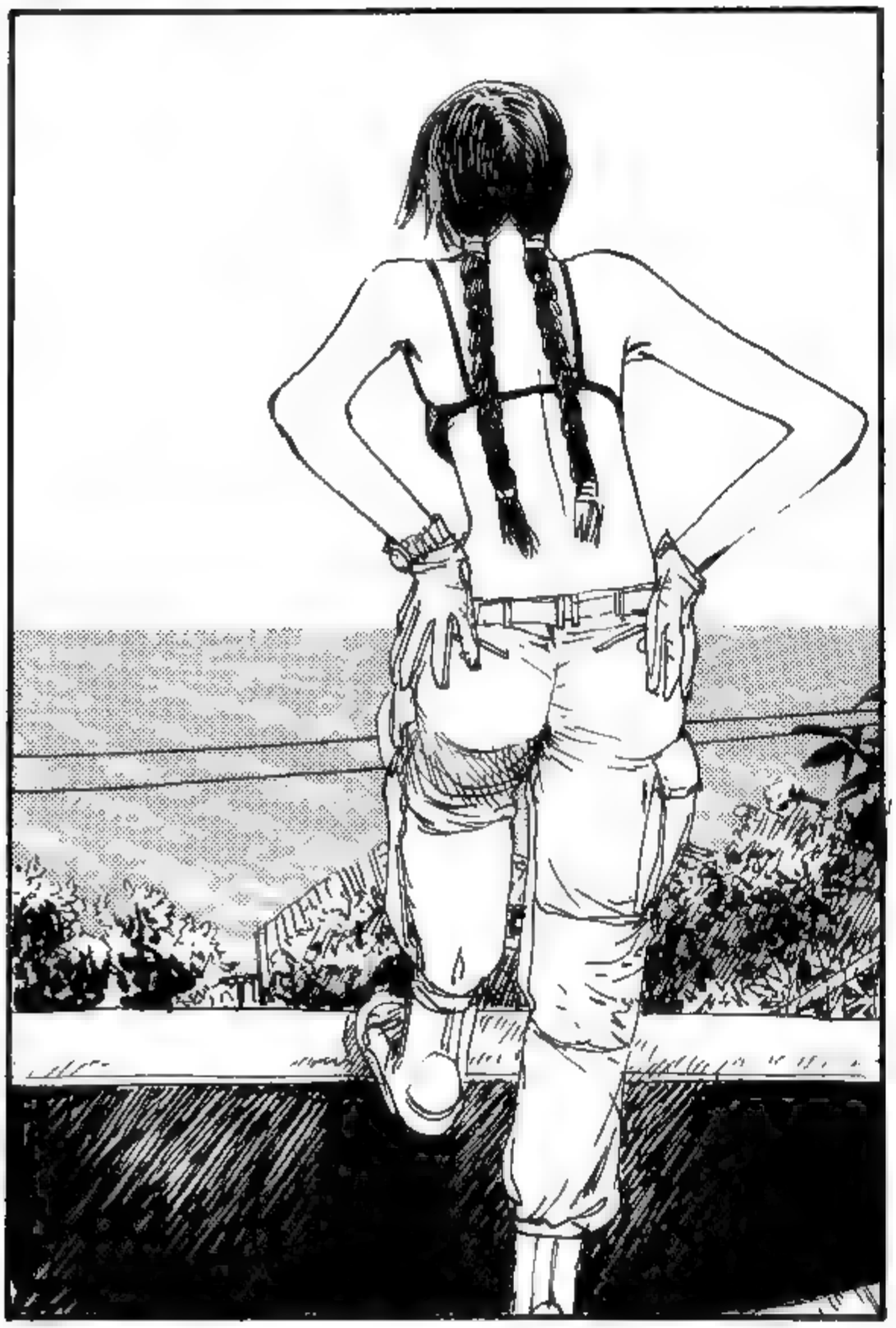
...EH?

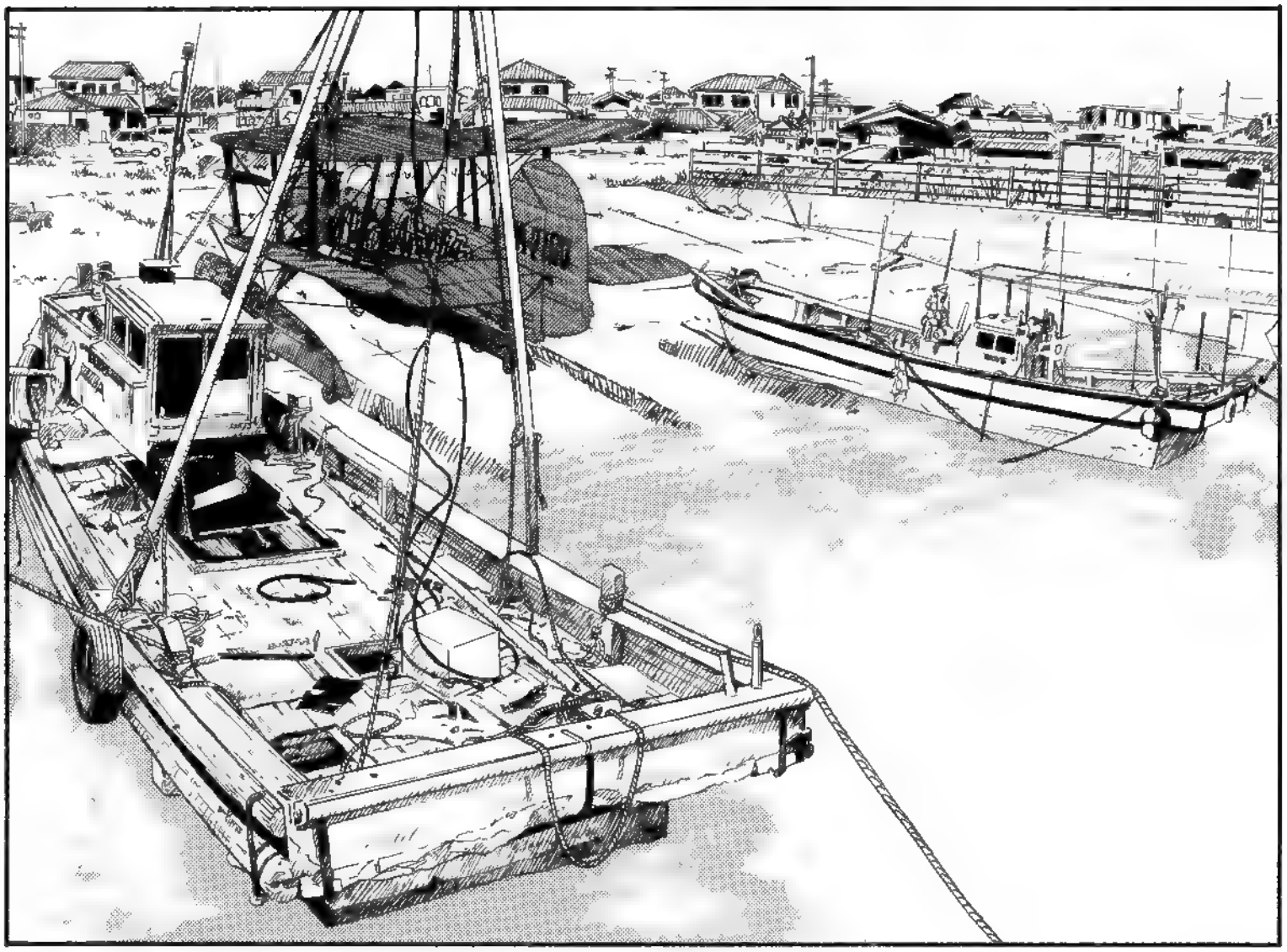
OH...

...SORRY. DID YOU SAY SOME-THING ...?

JA-2810


航空便





ELEC
ISLAND

...NOT AGAIN.

I'M LOST!
OSHIMA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL...? THIS IS MIKURA AIR DELIVERY EMERGENCY. IN DISTRESS OSHIMA NORTH HALL...
HELP!
OSHIMA TOWER, READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR.
THAT VOICE, IMPOSSIBLE! THIS HOME BEEN ABANDONED A LOT LONGER. ARE YOU OKAY...?

HI, TERRELL. HOW ABOUT TODAY?
DID YOU SEE ANY-THING?
HELLO? MR. MORTAP

HOLD

ANY-THING?
HOPE YOU'RE WELL.

HOW 'BOUT TODAY?

'LO, 'LO, KON.?

THANK YOU!

26 DEGREES, 46 MINUTES, 30 SECONDS, 136 DEGREES, 08 MINUTES, 04 SEC-ONDS... MM! GOT IT!

TALK TO YOU TOMOR-ROW.

OH! ON THE FISHING SONAR...?! A POD?

UH-HUH.

I SEE

HUH?

...NO LIGHTS?

THEY TURNED OFF MY POWER.
WELL, THAT SUCKS.

HA! BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW MY FRIDGE IS BROKE ANYWAY ...!

MIKASA...?

I'M HOME.

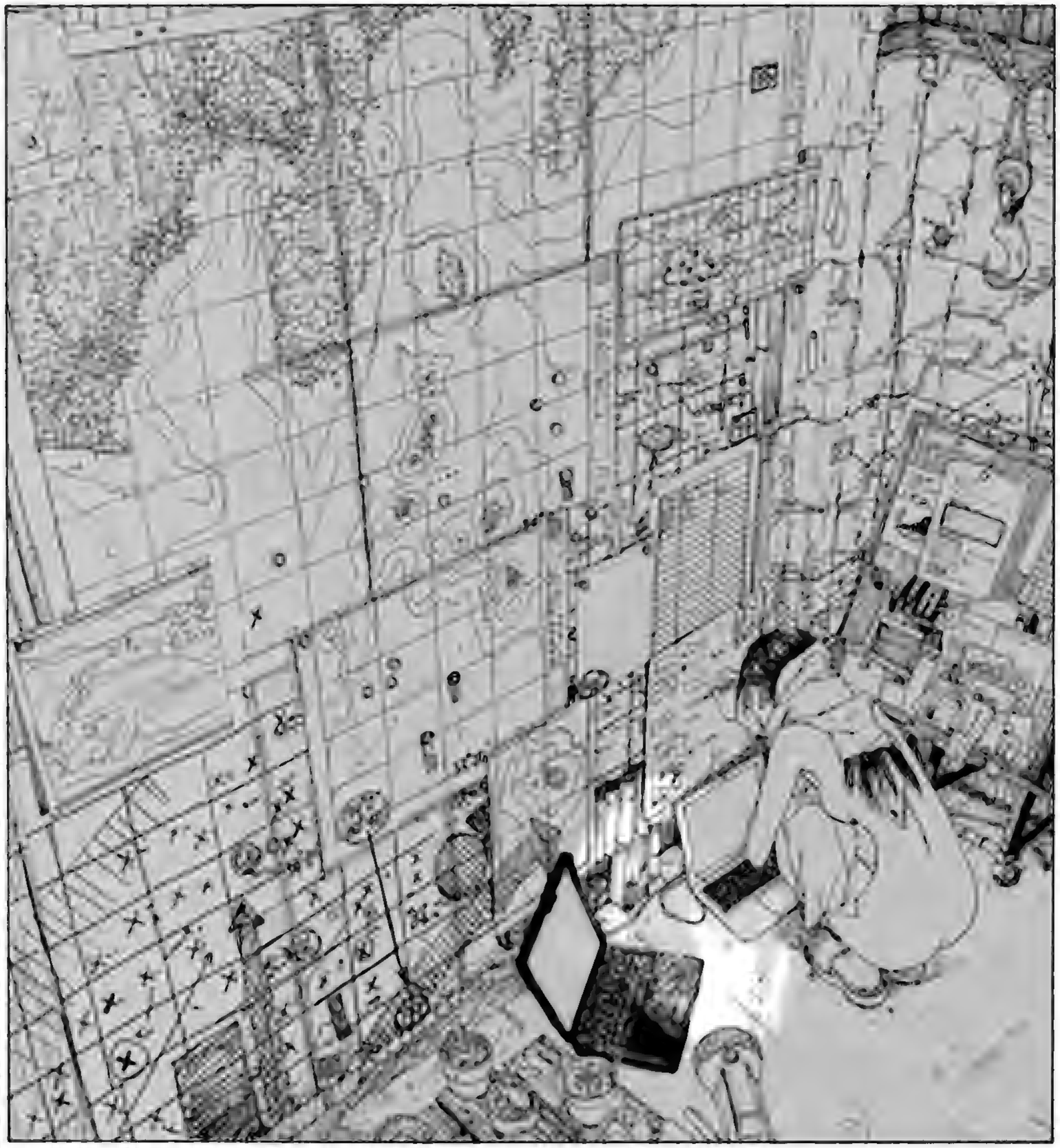
GOOD! LAND! YOU SCARED ME! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE DARK...?

THOUGHT I HEARD HER COME BACK...

INSTEAD OF RUNNING DOWN OLD TAUPE...
I THINK YOU SHOULD GET BACK TO BUSINESS.
YOU'RE RIGHT... YOU'RE RIGHT.
FLY-BOY...
WELL... I HAVEN'T BEEN BRINGING IN MUCH CASH LATELY...

AIR SERVICE
WEEKLY SERVICE

LET'S SEE...36 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE, 46, 30.
36 EAST LONGITUDE, 62.04...



EURASIA

NORTH AMERICA

ELECTRIC ISLAND SEEMS TO BE CIRCLING THE NORTH PACIFIC, RIDING ON THE CURRENTS...

...EACH CYCLE TAKES BETWEEN THREE AND THREE AND A HALF YEARS.

KURISHIO

THE EXACT ROUTE VARIES WIDELY WITH EACH CIRCUIT.

HOWEVER, IT *ALWAYS* TRANSITS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE OGASAWARA AND IZU ISLANDS.

...RIGHT UNDER WHERE I'M FLYING EVERY DAY.

Pacific Ocean

111

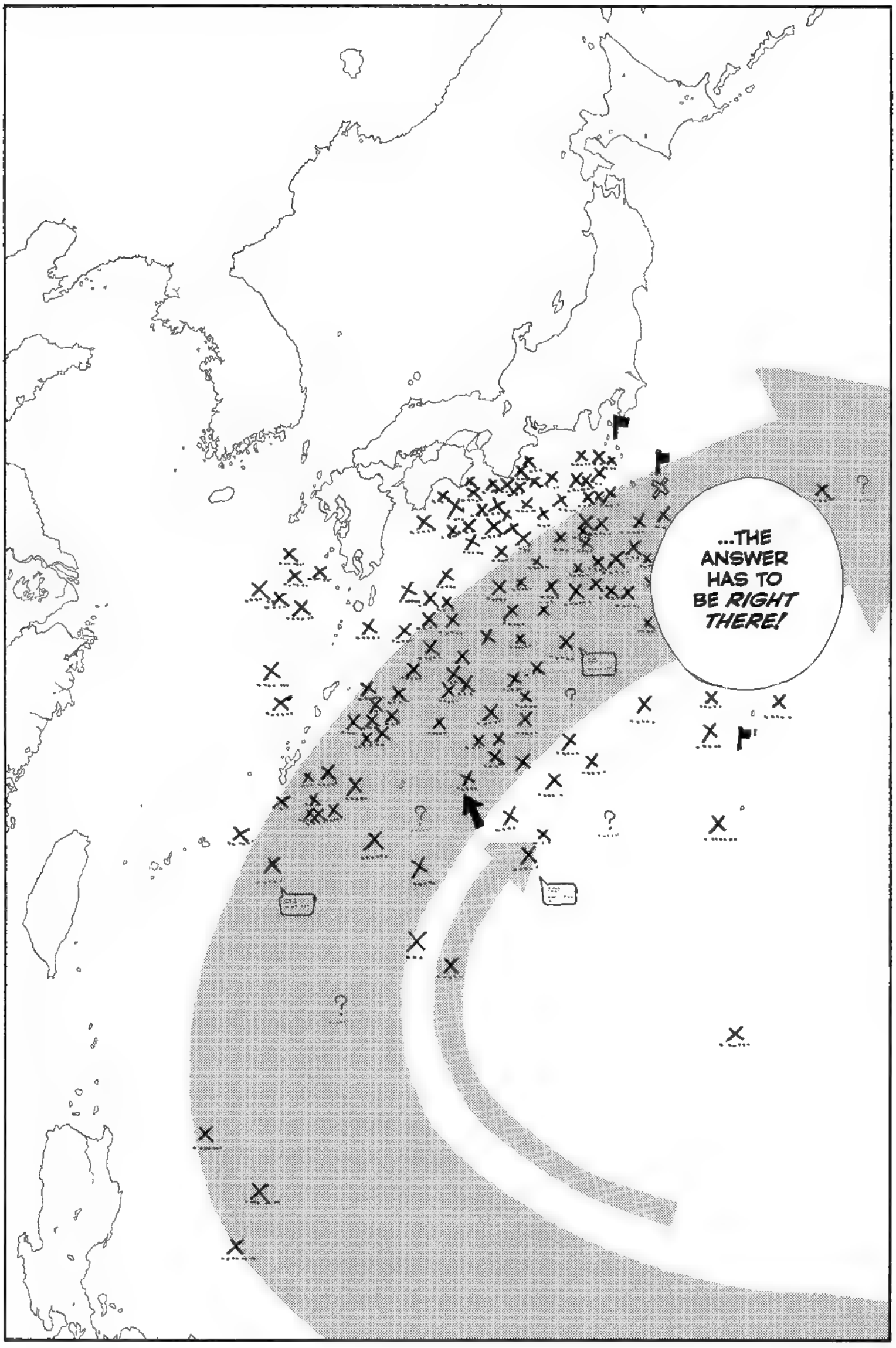
EXCEPT, THE KEY TO FINDING IT IS THAT IT'S MOVEMENTS ARE CYCLICAL.

...ELECTRIC ISLAND IS EXTREMELY TINY. EYEBALLING IT, I PUT ITS CIRCUMFERENCE AROUND 800 METERS.

NASTY THING IS, IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE MOVING AROUND. NO FIXED POSITION...

IT'S SO SMALL YOU CAN LOSE IT IF THE WIND SHIFTS. NO TELLING WHERE IT'S GONE...

110


...THE ANSWER HAS TO BE *RIGHT THERE!*

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS...

...ELECTRIC ISLAND *SHOULD* BE BACK IN THESE WATERS.

IF I LET THIS CHANCE GO BY, I'LL HAVE TO WAIT THREE MORE.

THE QUESTION IS, *WHAT* ROUTE...?

6.18

6.22

6.19

6.20

6.21

6.22

LIKE THIS...?

OR MAYBE THIS...?

CANDLES CAN-
BURN...

YUCK... A REALLY BAD TIME NOT TO HAVE LIGHTS.

...AND THE CANDLES AND LANTERN.

LOW BATTERY

GACK!

WAIT...!

THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...

...AN AIRSOFT GUN!

OH!

M2019

LOOK AT THESE...!

GRANDPA AND I USED TO PLAY WITH THEM ALL THE TIME...

...THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM HERE...

I REALLY WAS A GRANDPA'S GIRL...
UP TILL M'DDLE SCHOOL I DID EVERYTHING W'TH H'M...

...BUT COME TO THINK OF IT...
...I GUESS THEY REALLY NEED HIS HORSES. NOT MINE.

EVEN MORE OF THESE HERE...

MENACING ENOUGH ALREADY. CANCUN? PAID CANCUN?

1001
MIKURAJIMA VILLAGE TOKYO
MR. BRIAN AMELIA
MIKURAJIMA MIDDLE SC
RYUGO
WHO ARE THESE FROM ...?
MR. RYUGO SENT THESE...?
HUH...?

WRK

UM... GOT ANYTHING FOR ME?

HEY, GOOD MORNING...!

HA HA...

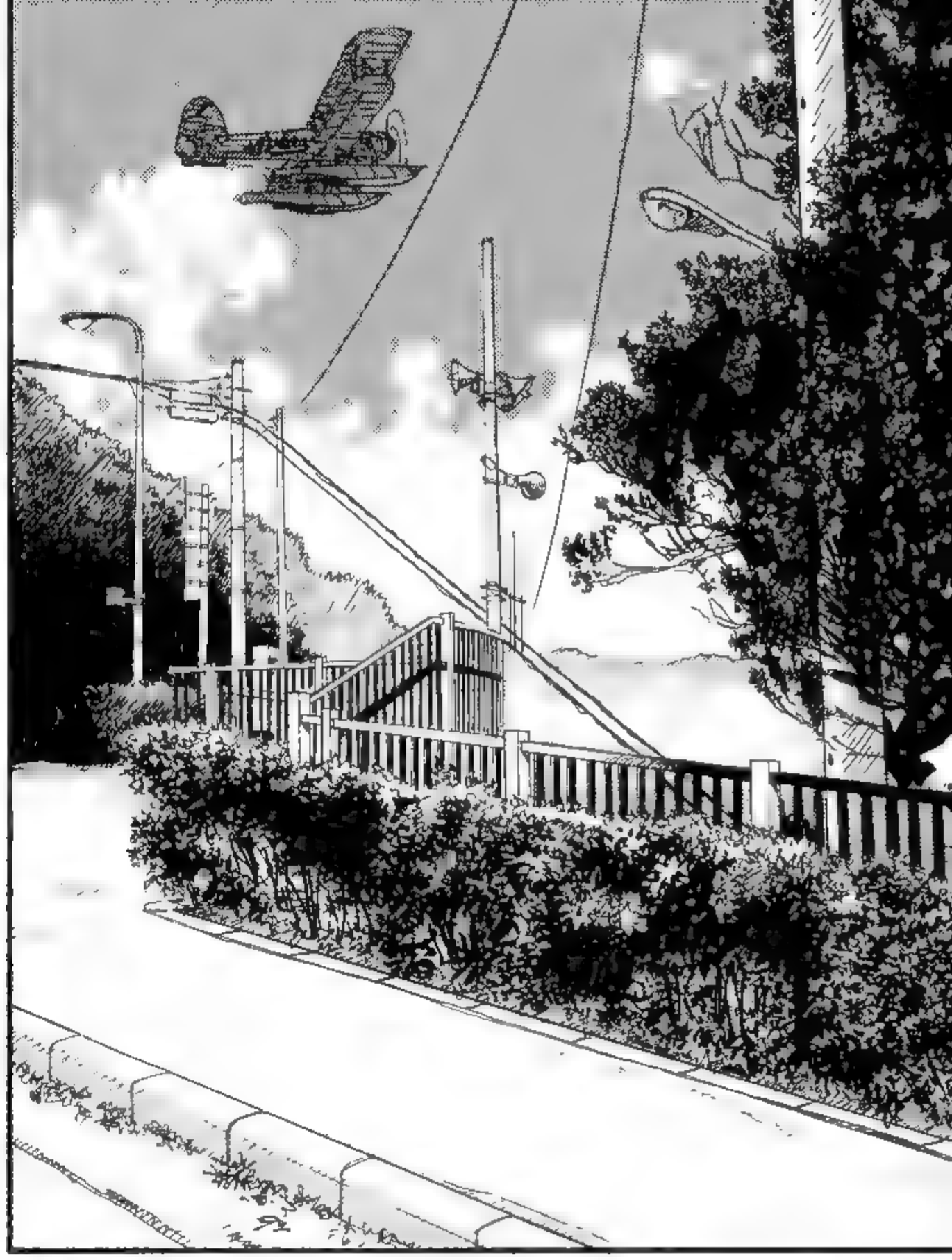
DECIDE TO WORK TODAY, MIKURA...?

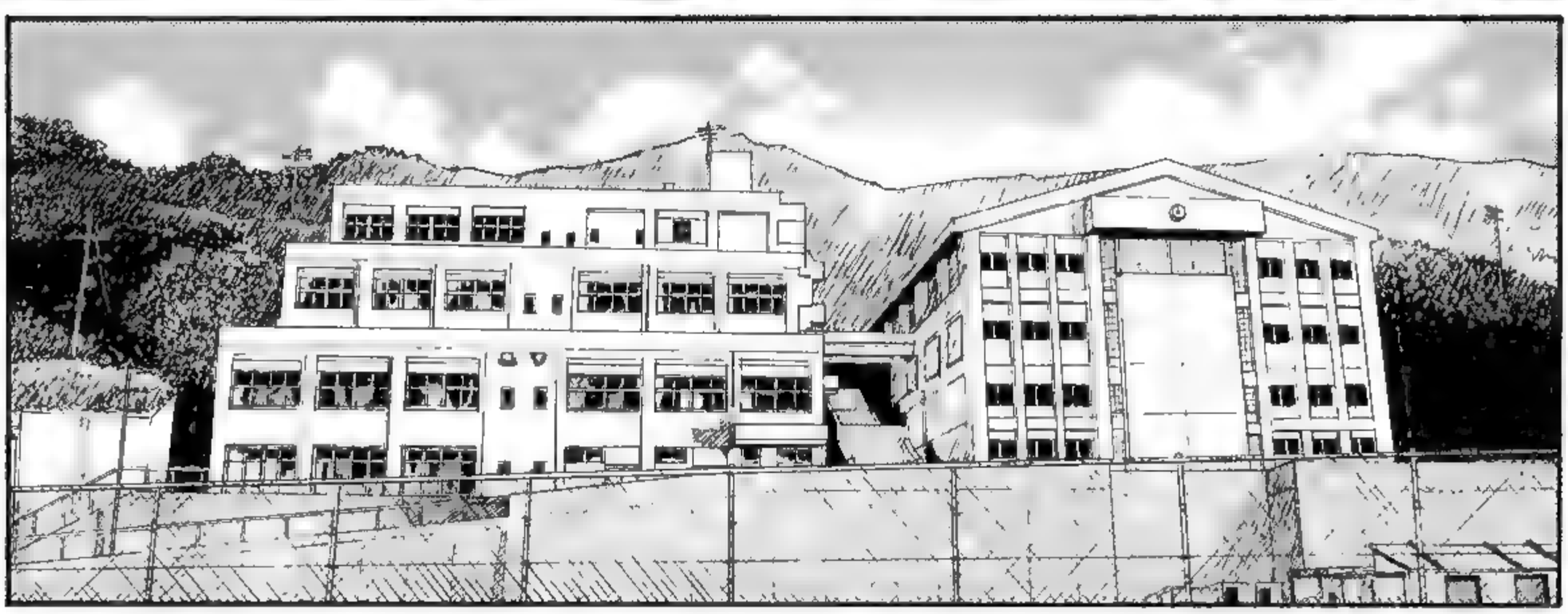
SURE DO!

IT'S ON MY WAY.

AND, UM... IF YOU GOT ANYTHING FOR MIKURAJIMA, I'LL TAKE IT.

...DE-
LIVERY!
THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR
BUSI-
NESS
...!





WELL, NOW! IF IT ISN'T THE FORMER MISS SATO...?!

OR DO YOU PREFER "MIKURA" NOW?

MR. PRINCIPAL ...!

WELCOME

Visitors to Mikurajima Elementary and Middle School must wear name tags. Please inquire at staff room.

AH HA HA...

OH. YOU REMEM-BER THAT?...

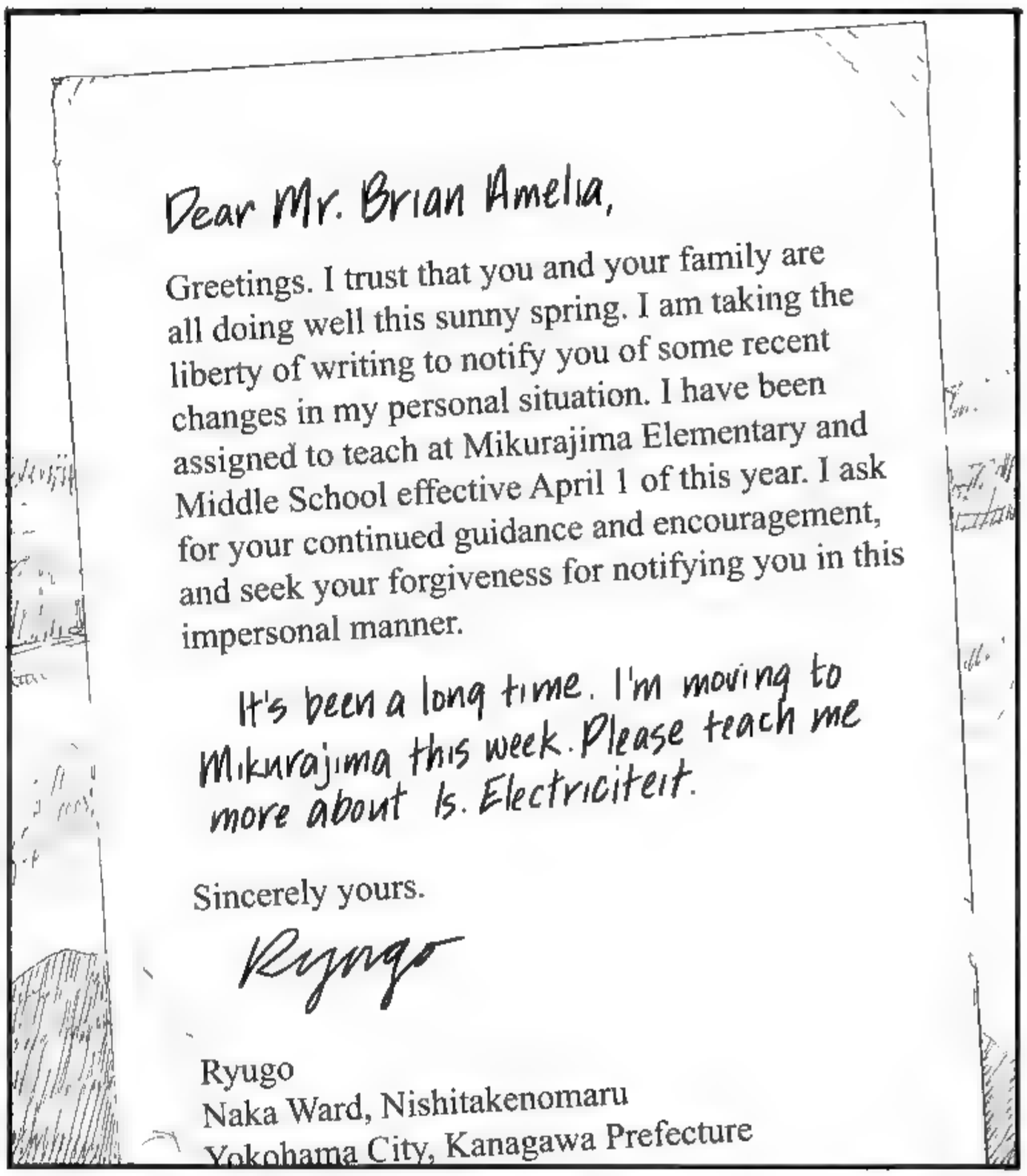
BACK THEN...

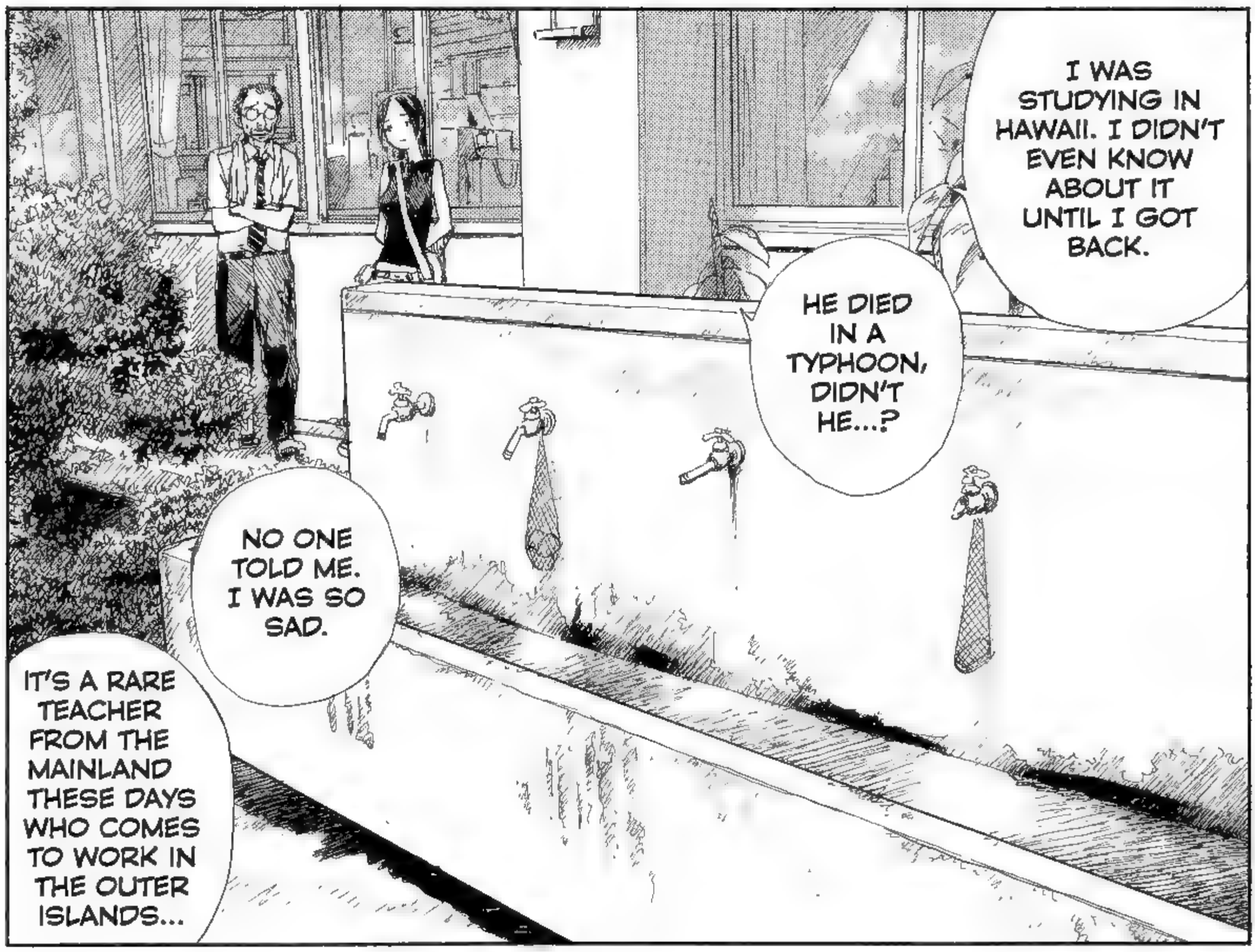
...MY FAMILY NAME CHANGED SO MUCH I COULDN'T KEEP UP.

IT FELT LIKE MY PARENTS WERE JUST YANKING ME AROUND...

AND MEANWHILE, YOU WERE CERTAINLY YANKING ME AROUND...

AH. RYUGO...
...WE LOST A PRECIOUS PERSON.
TODAY
MR. BRIAN AMELIA
RYUGO


Dear Mr. Brian Amelia,
Greetings. I trust that you and your family are all doing well this sunny spring. I am taking the liberty of writing to notify you of some recent changes in my personal situation. I have been assigned to teach at Mikurajima Elementary and Middle School effective April 1 of this year. I ask for your continued guidance and encouragement, and seek your forgiveness for notifying you in this impersonal manner.
It's been a long time. I'm moving to Mikurajima this week. Please teach me more about Is. Electriciteit.
Sincerely yours.
Ryugo
Ryugo
Naka Ward, Nishitakenomaru
Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture


I WAS STUDYING IN HAWAII. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT UNTIL I GOT BACK.
HE DIED IN A TYPHOON, DIDN'T HE...?
NO ONE TOLD ME. I WAS SO SAD.
IT'S A RARE TEACHER FROM THE MAINLAND THESE DAYS WHO COMES TO WORK IN THE OUTER ISLANDS...

WELL NOW...

...“ELECTRIC ISLAND,” HM?

AND THIS. HERE. ELECTRIC ISLAND, RIGHT?

DID MR. RYUGO EVER TALK ABOUT THAT...?

MR. RYUGO WAS OUR *ENGLISH* TEACHER.

GEO-PHYSICS ...?

RYUGO'S BACKGROUND WAS IN GEOPHYSICS. IT MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT...

DID YOUR GRANDPA BRIAN SAY SOMETHING ABOUT IT...?

WHY *DO YOU* KNOW ALL THAT?!

WHAT ?!!

SO *UNFAIR* ...!

HMM. TOLD ME HE FELL OUT WITH HIS FATHER. SAME FIELD...

...SO HE QUIT HIS GRADUATE PROGRAM AND BECAME AN ENGLISH TEACHER INSTEAD.

THE PROPERTIES OF THE EARTH...

PLATE-TECTONIC PUZZLES...

...EARTH-CRUST TOTEM POLES...

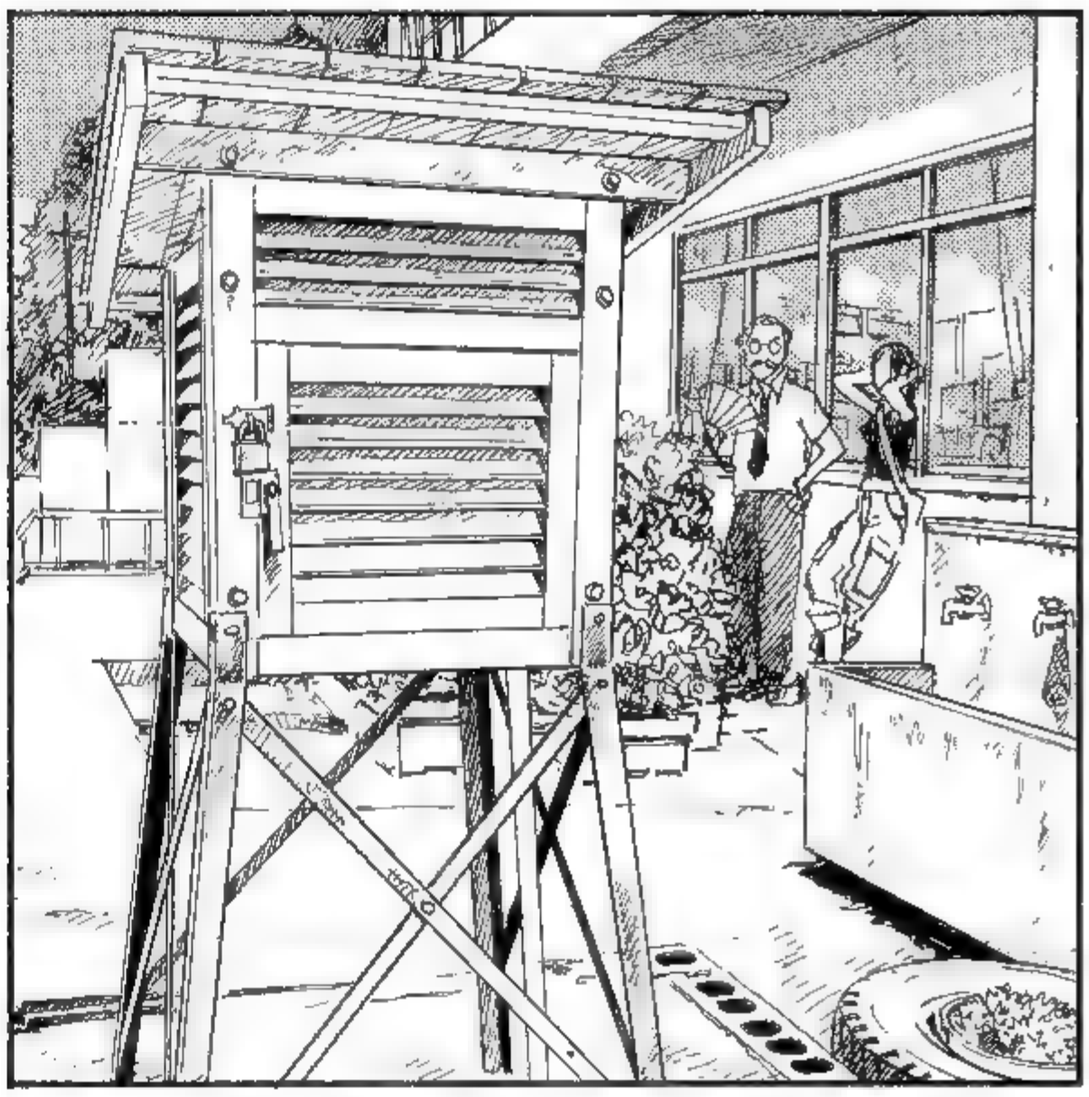
NO WONDER HE MADE ALL THOSE WEIRD THINGS FOR US.

I NEVER KNEW HE'D STUDIED THAT.

MMM...

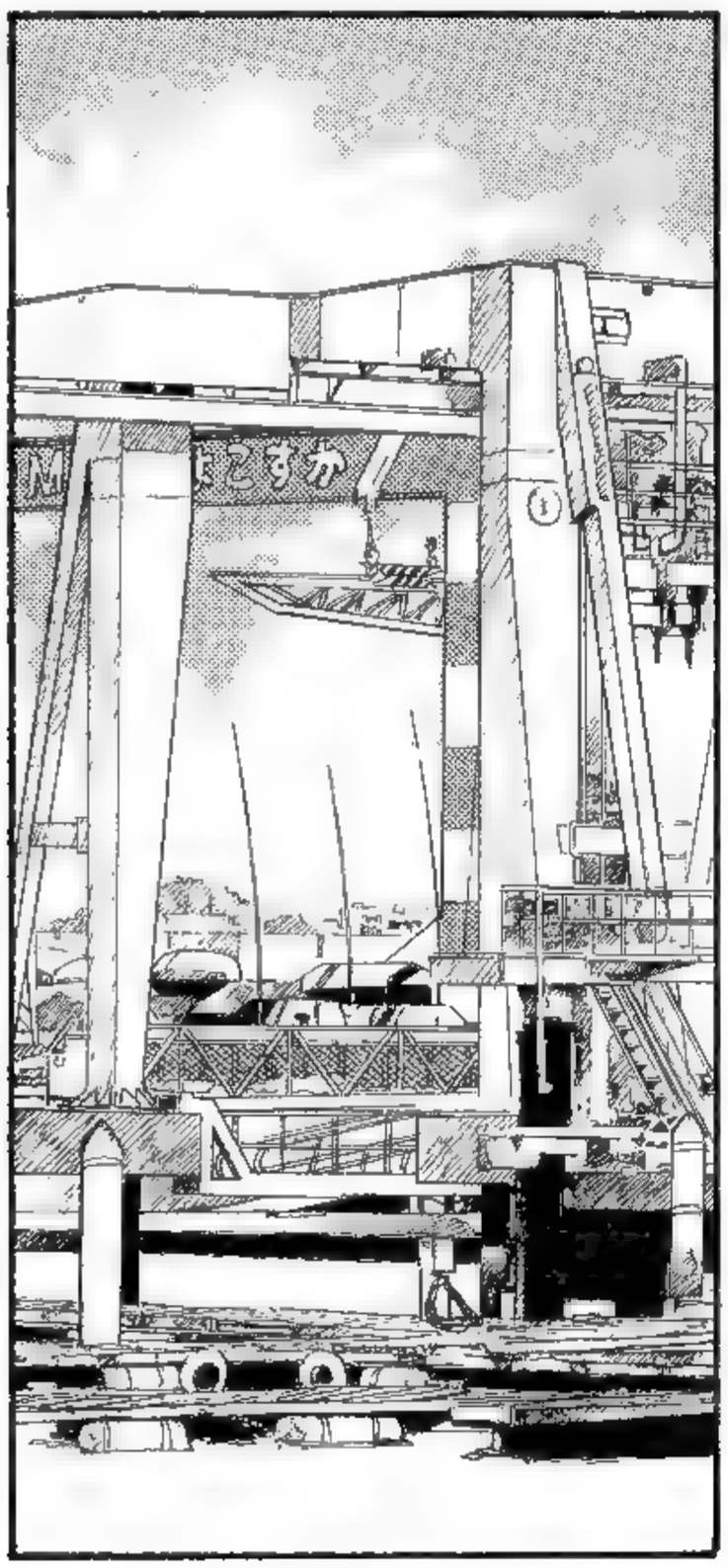
REMEMBER WHEN HE DREW A STAR CHART ACROSS THE ENTIRE SCHOOLYARD ...?

HE HAD HIS OWN WAY OF TEACHING.

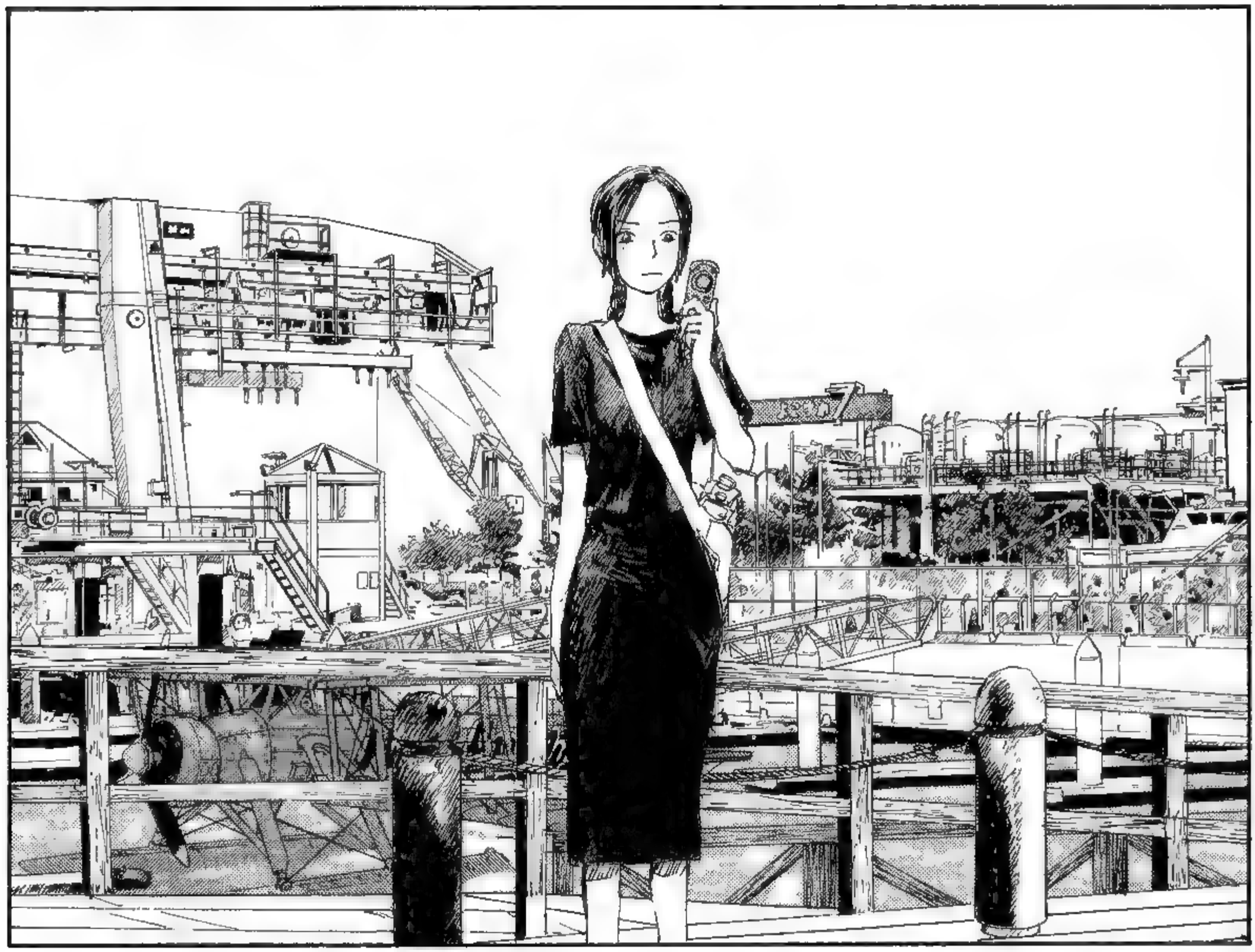


I COULD HAVE ASKED HIM ALL ABOUT IT, BUT YOU KEPT THIS SECRET...
BUT NOW I'M SO *MAD...!*

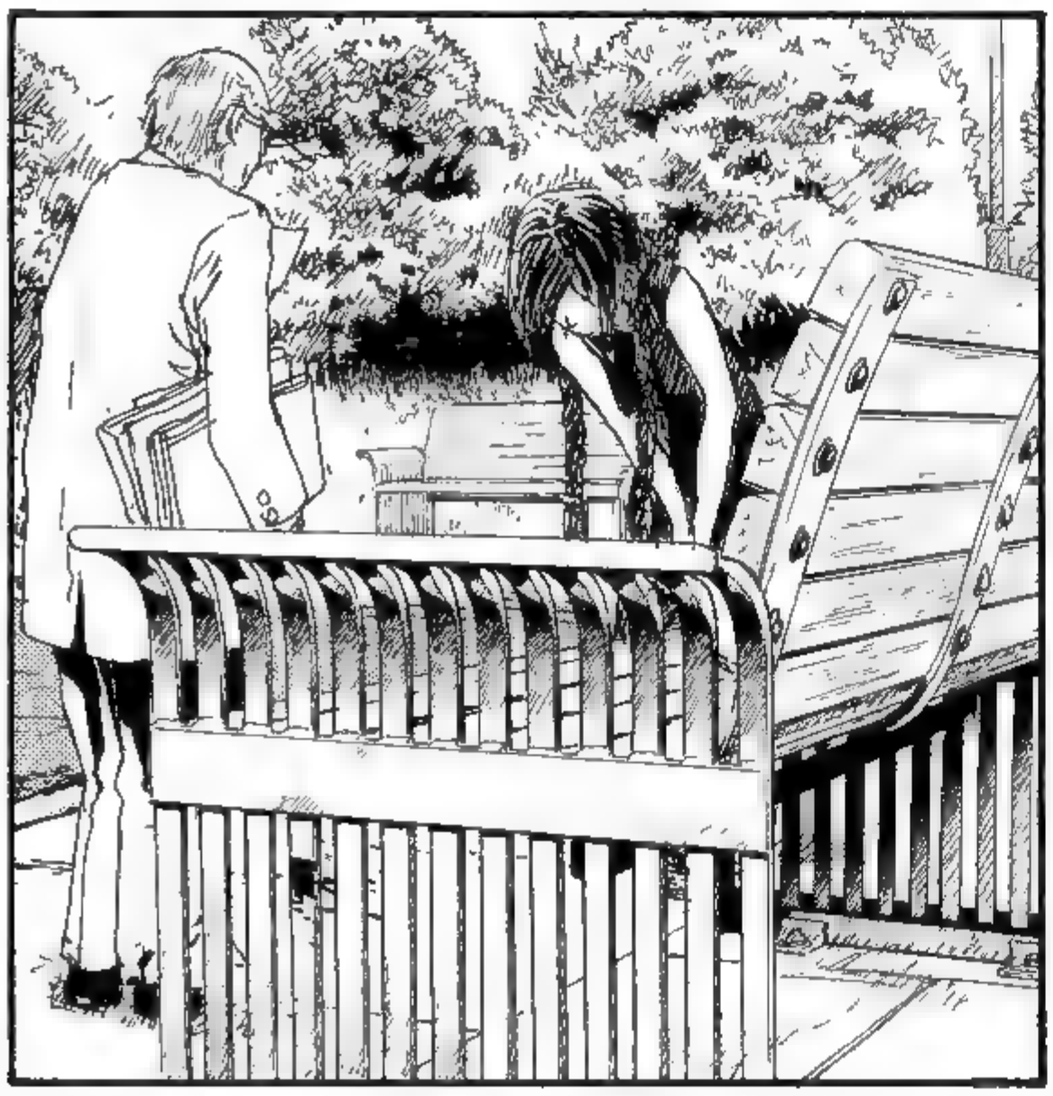
YOU DIDN'T KEEP IT SECRET.
...SORRY.



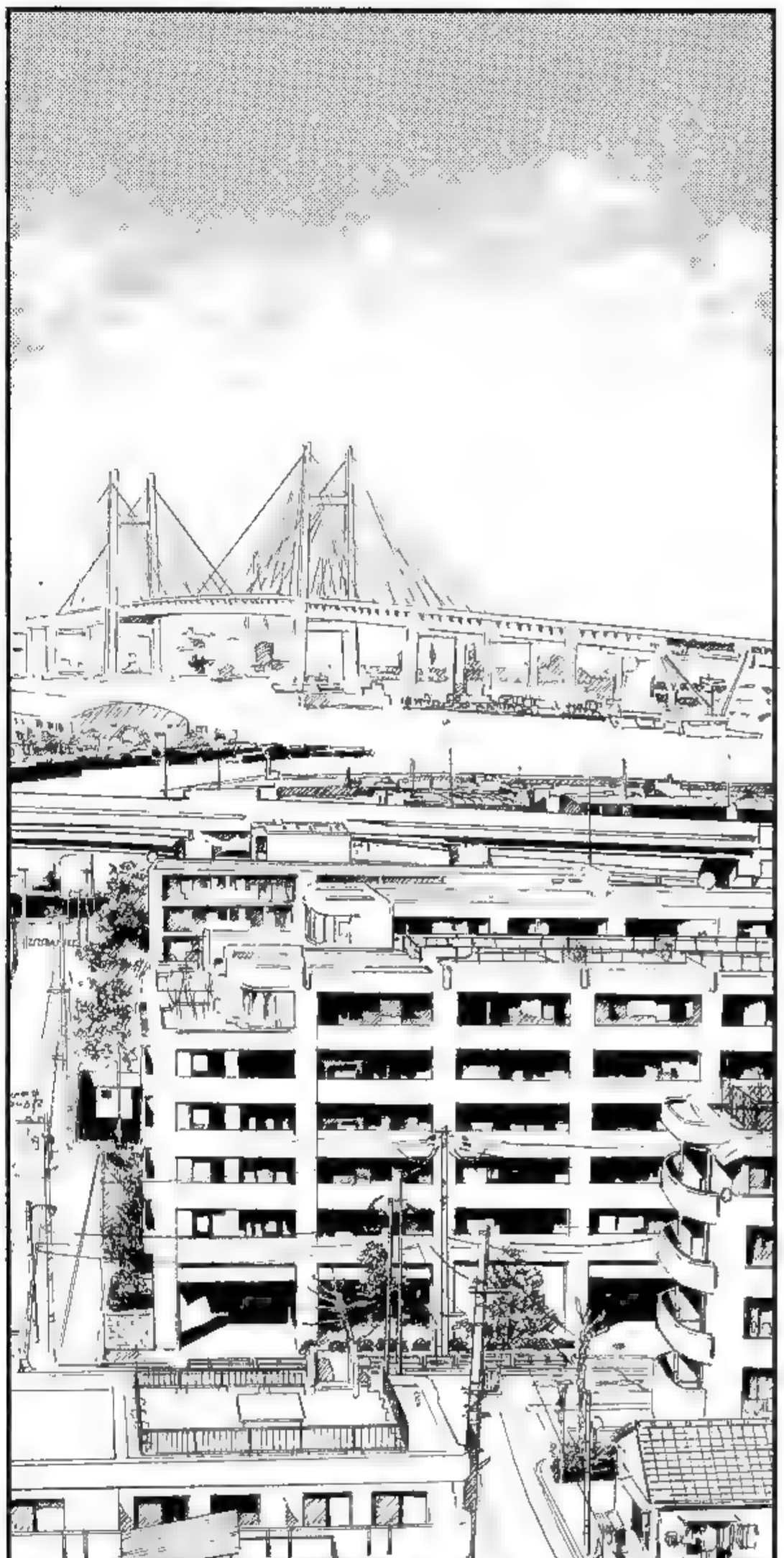
...HIS FATHER'S PHONE NUMBER... IN YOKOSUKA.
...WELL, I DO HAVE *ONE* SECRET I CAN TELL YOU...



100-1301
MIKURAJIMA VILLAGE TOKYO METRO
MR. BRIAN AMELIA
MIKURAJIMA MIDD
RYUGO



SO YOU'RE BRIAN AMELIA'S GRAND-DAUGHTER...
...HAVE WE *MET* SOME-WHERE BEFORE?
...



I OWE HIM SO MUCH. HE DRILLED ME IN ENGLISH CONVERSATION ALL THREE YEARS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL. I WANTED TO BE A PILOT...

...AND ENGLISH IS THE INTERNATIONAL AVIATION LANGUAGE...

WELL, ONE SUMMER *VACATION* I BARGED INTO MR. RYUGO'S HOUSE...

AH!

THAT'S IT!

MY GRAND-FATHER'S PASSED.

WELL, MY SON ONLY GOT TO TEACH FOR FIVE YEARS.

WHAT A TEACHER WANTS MOST IS A DEDICATED STUDENT. HE WAS LUCKY TO KNOW YOU, TOO.

AND HOW IS BRIAN AMELIA...?

...MR. RYUGO WAS ALWAYS DROPPING BY.

BACK WHEN I LIVED WITH GRANDPA ON MIKURA-JIMA...

I SEE...

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE RESEARCHING IT IN THE WORLD.

I'M CERTAIN IT WAS AMELIA WHO TOLD MY SON ABOUT THIS ELECTRIC ISLAND.

...YOUR GRANDFATHER, I MEAN.

THAT HAS TO BE IT. BUT I NEVER KNEW ABOUT IT...

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY WERE ON MIKURAJIMA. TO PURSUE THE MYSTERY...?

THEY MET IN THE OGASAWARAS, WHEN THEY WERE STUDENTS.

...ELECTRIC ISLAND IS SAID TO BE SOMETHING CIRCLING AROUND THE NORTH PACIFIC, YES?

Y- YES!

LET'S ASSUME FOR THE MOMENT IT *DOES* EXIST.

YOU WERE AMELIA'S GRAND-CHILD...

WELL.

...AND MY SON'S STUDENT.

I SAY THAT MAKES YOU THE HEIR.

TO THE SEARCH, I MEAN. THESE ARE MY SON'S RESEARCH NOTES.

FLOATING OBJECTS IN THE OCEAN HAVE DIFFERENT FATES.

SOME WILL JUST SINK... SOME WILL WASH UP ON A COAST OR SHORE...SOME WILL DECAY...AND SOME WILL BE INGESTED BY MARINE LIFE.

...THEY TEND TO GRADUALLY ACCUMULATE INSIDE THE CALMER WATERS WITHIN THE GYRE, WHERE THEY BREAK DOWN.

BUT AS LONG AS THEY *DO* FLOAT, THEIR MOTION IS GOVERNED BY THE CURRENTS OF THE NORTH PACIFIC GYRE. AND AS THESE OBJECTS ARE DRAGGED ALONG...

THAT VAST INTERIOR ZONE, FULL OF TINY PARTICLES, IS CALLED THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH. NOW, HERE IS THE POINT...

AND IF IT IS *NOT* A FLOATING OBJECT...IT'S QUESTIONABLE THAT IT EVER EXISTED AT ALL.

...IF ELECTRIC ISLAND REALLY *IS* A FLOATING OBJECT, IT MIGHT CIRCLE ONCE...BUT NOT CONTINUOUSLY OVER THE DECADES.

...THANK YOU, PROFESSOR.

...THANK YOU FOR NOT PATRONIZING ME.

I'D RATHER HAVE SOMEONE LAY OUT THE FACTS THAN LIE TO ME...

...I FEEL LIKE YOU'VE GIVEN ME MY ENERGY BACK.

MR. RYUSHO WAS LOST AT SEA IN THE TYPHOON THAT HAPPENED SIX YEARS AGO.

WHAT A COINCIDENCE...

THAT MIRAGE...

...ELECTRIC ISLAND!

HE HAD TO BE GOING TO ELECTRIC ISLAND!

EH...?

I HOPE SO

TWO CIRCUITS AGO, MR. RYUGO. NEXT CIRCUIT, THREE YEARS AGO, GRANDPA.

AND THIS TIME, IT'S MY TURN.

MR. RYUGO I WONDER IF YOU REACHED IT?

MIKURA !!!

IT'S LIKE A FRIENDS OF MIKURA REUNION TONIGHT!

HEY, MIKURA...

...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEVER COMES TO OUR OLD YOKOSUKA HANGOUT!

THEN I'LL BE CLOSEST.

THEN NEXT TIME DO IT ON THE ISLAND, OKAY...?

SO WHERE *ARE* YOU LIVING NOW? STILL FLYING?

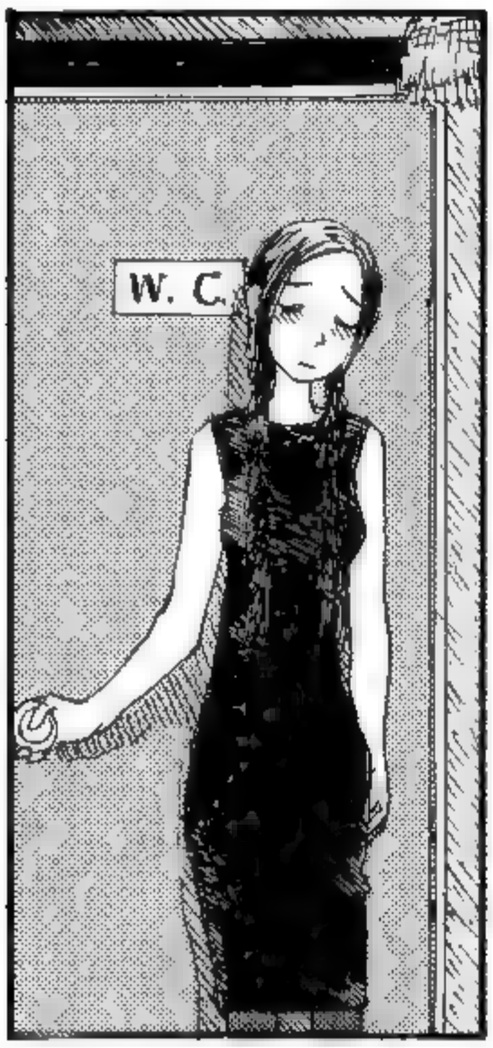
TWO HOUSES ALL TO YOURSELF ?!

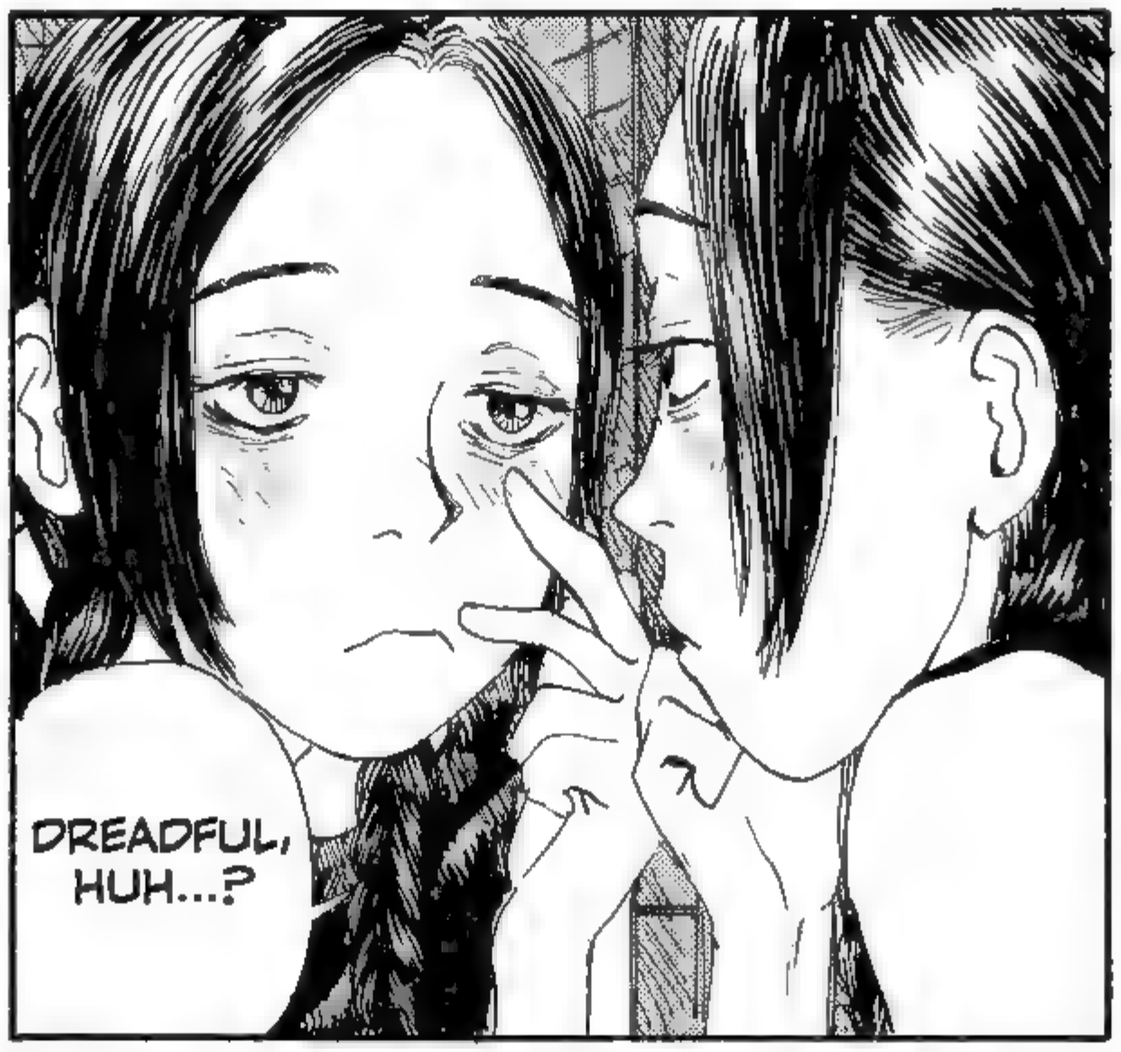
...I GO BACK AND FORTH. THE HOUSE IN OSHIMA, AND THEN OUT TO GRANDDAD'S PLACE ON HAHAJIMA.

WELL, SHE IS A COMPANY PRESIDENT...

YEAH, AND SOLE EMPLOYEE OF MIKURA AIR SERVICE. NO GUY IN HER LIFE...

YOU LOOK DREADFUL, MIKURA...


W. C.


DREADFUL, HUH...?

BY THE WAY, MIKURA...
CREEKのおすすめメニュー

EH-HEH.

NOTHING LIKE THAT, BUT... THERE'RE REASONS...

...WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?

THAT'S NO COCKTAIL DRESS. WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON...?

ARE YOU TRYING TO PRY, LITTLE MISS LUSH...?

ARE YOU IN MOURNING AGAIN?

AND YEAH, THESE ARE ALL OLD PAPERS OF HIS.

I WAS GOING THROUGH HER BAG...?

NO *WAY...!*

NORIKO! NORIKO! I FIGURED IT OUT! IT'S ABOUT MR. RYUGO!

UM, IT'S VERY TOUCHING, BUT...

...HAVEN'T YOU GROWN UP AT ALL SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL...?

SO IT'S NOT HER GRANDPA. SHE'S STILL BAWLING FOR HER ENGLISH TEACHER.

OH, GOD.

I *THINK* SHE'S TRYING TO STRIP...BUT SHE CAN'T FIND HER DRESS.

WHY ARE YOU... FLOPPING YOUR HANDS AROUND, MIKURA...?

IT'S NOT THAT, I'M TELLIN' YA!

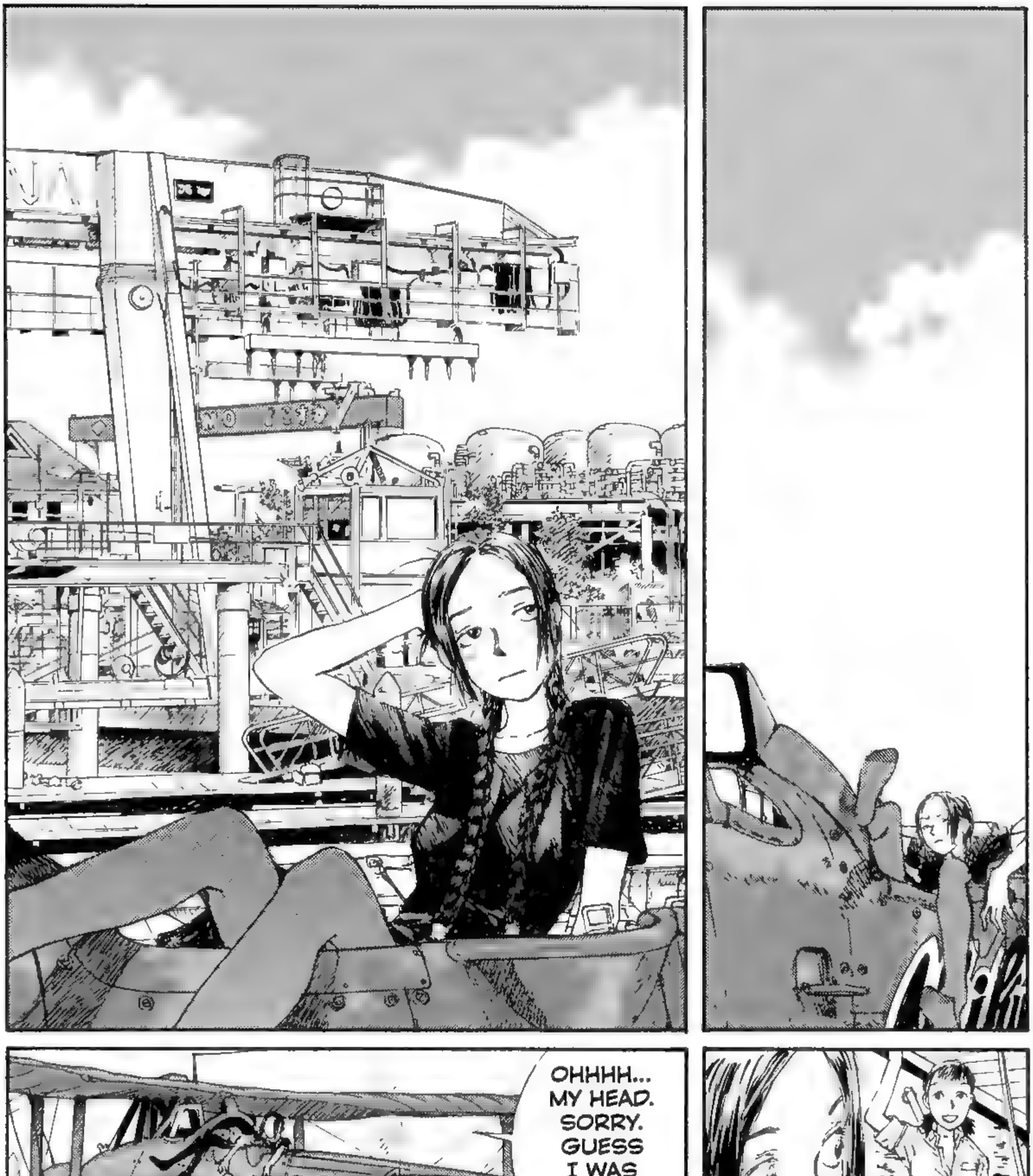
WAN' ME T'SHOW YA?!

I'S GROWED UP FINE! STICK OUT IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES!

...WELL... T'K M'WORD F'R IT.

AN' SCREW YOU GUYS. MIST'R RYUGO'S ALIVE ON 'LECTRIC IZZLAND... I J'ST KNOW IT.

御慶事中
うみ



OHHHH... MY HEAD. SORRY. GUESS I WAS TROUBLE ...?
BUT NO HARM IN THAT NOW AND THEN.
WELL, YEAH.

MORNIN', MIKURA ...!

AND I FELT SORRY FOR POOR MIKURA. SHE TALKED ABOUT MR. RYUGO ALL NIGHT LONG...

EH...?! YOU LIE!

YOU MUST TELL ME.

NOT, NOT, NOT!

DID YOU GUYS EVER DO IT? OR NOT?

RIGHT?

MIKURA, I KNOW IT'S HARD TO FORGET. BUT GET OVER HIM AND LOOK FOR THE NEXT GUY, QUICK.

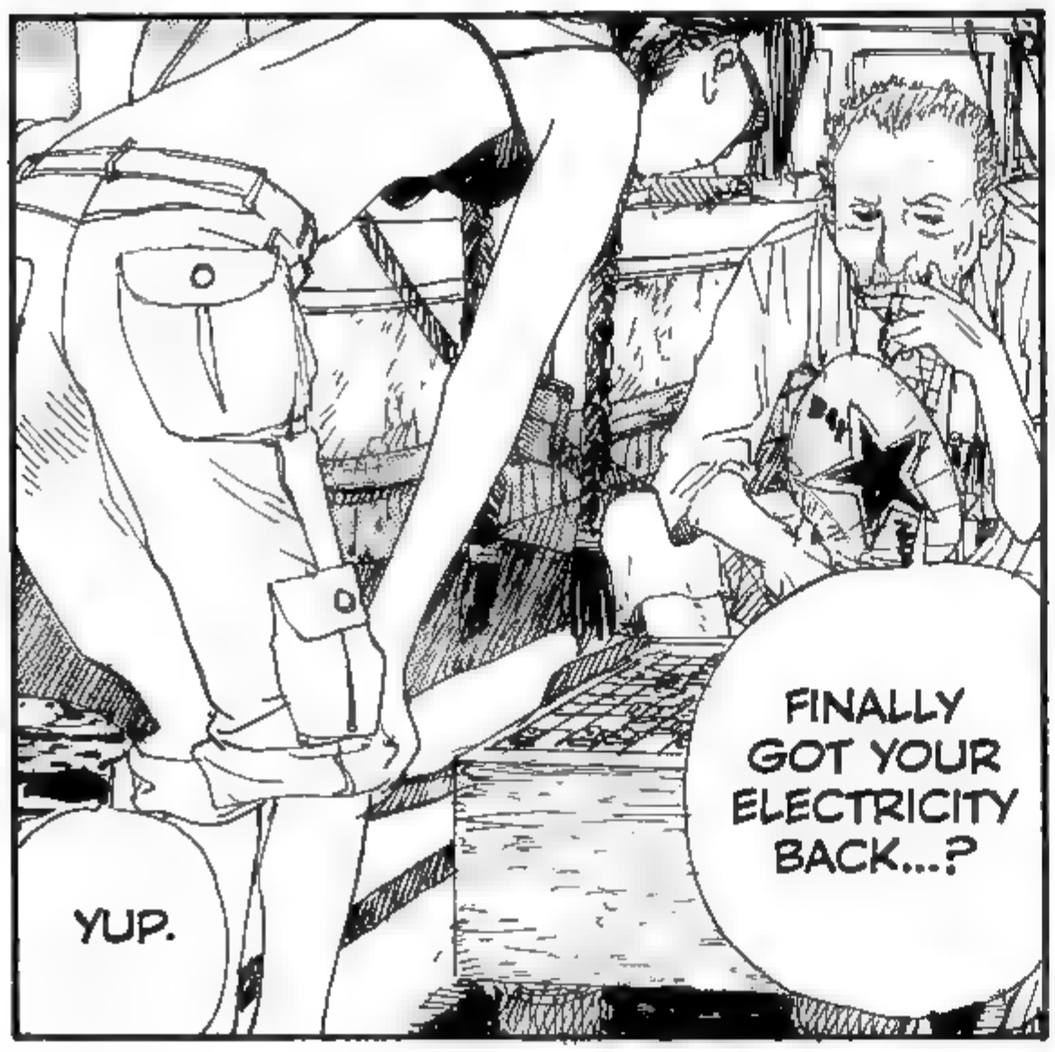
THANKS, NORIKO. BUT I'M OKAY...IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK.

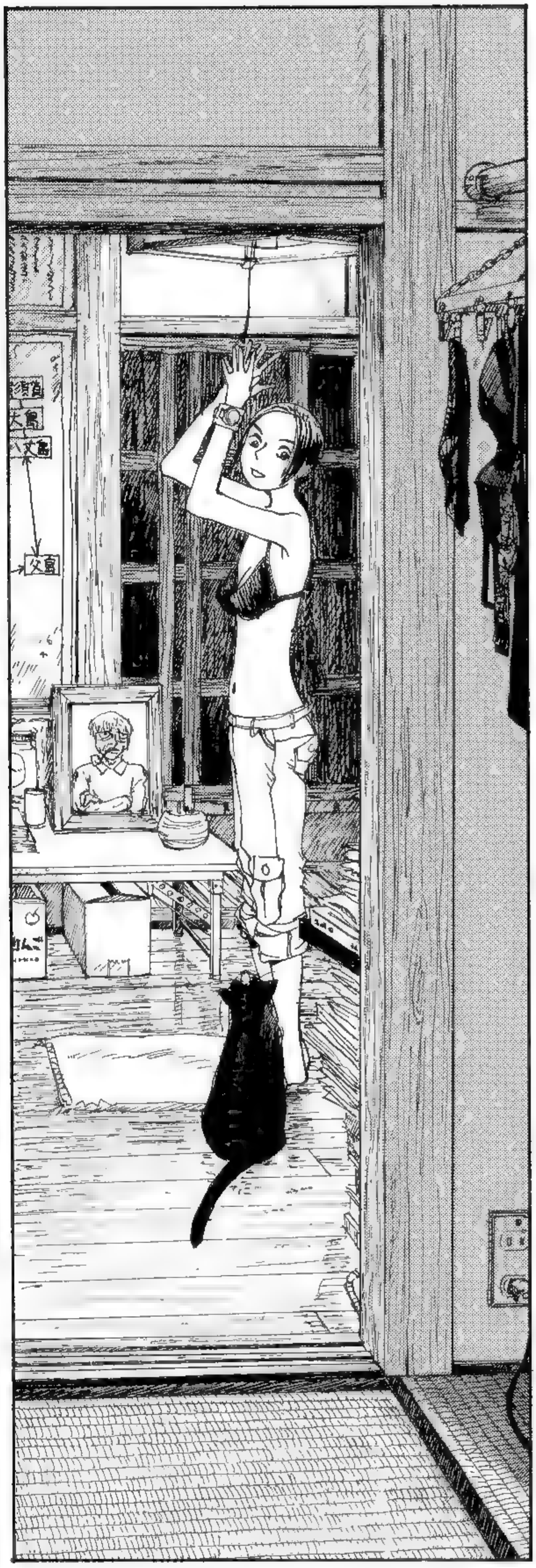
YOU CAN'T STAY IN KNOTS FOREVER.

父親
母親
←沖縄

Amelia
AIR SERVICE

BAY
MOONS


FINALLY GOT YOUR ELECTRICITY BACK...?
YUP.



AH!

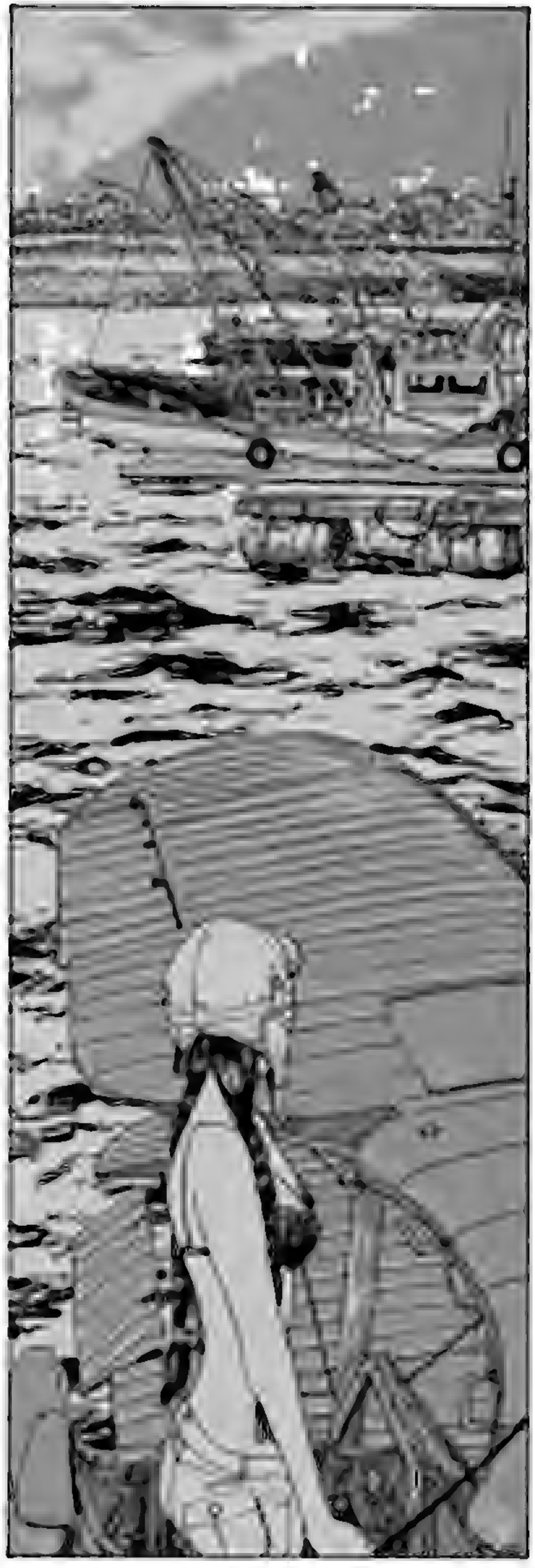
FEEL LIKE I SAID THE SAME THING HALF A YEAR AGO... BUT HAVE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON?

CON-FOUND IT.

I'M THINKING, I'M THINKING...

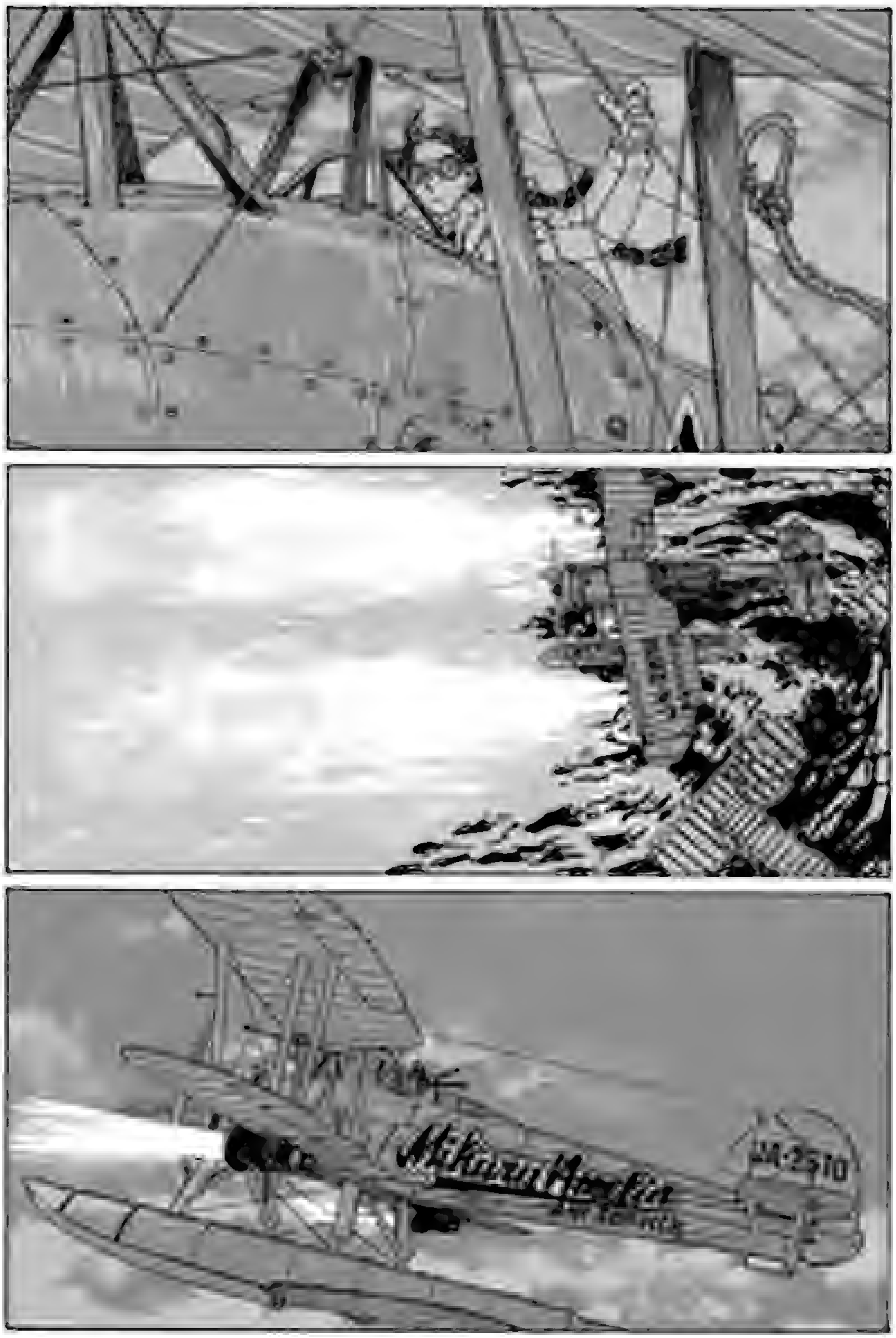
HOLD THAT MOVE.

...YOU DON'T NEVER LET GO OF ANYTHING, GIRL.



Dia

RIGHT... THERE WAS THAT.
...REACH FOR THE LIGHTS.



...WAS I REALLY SO CRAZY TO GO NIGHT FLYING IN THAT OLD CRATE...?

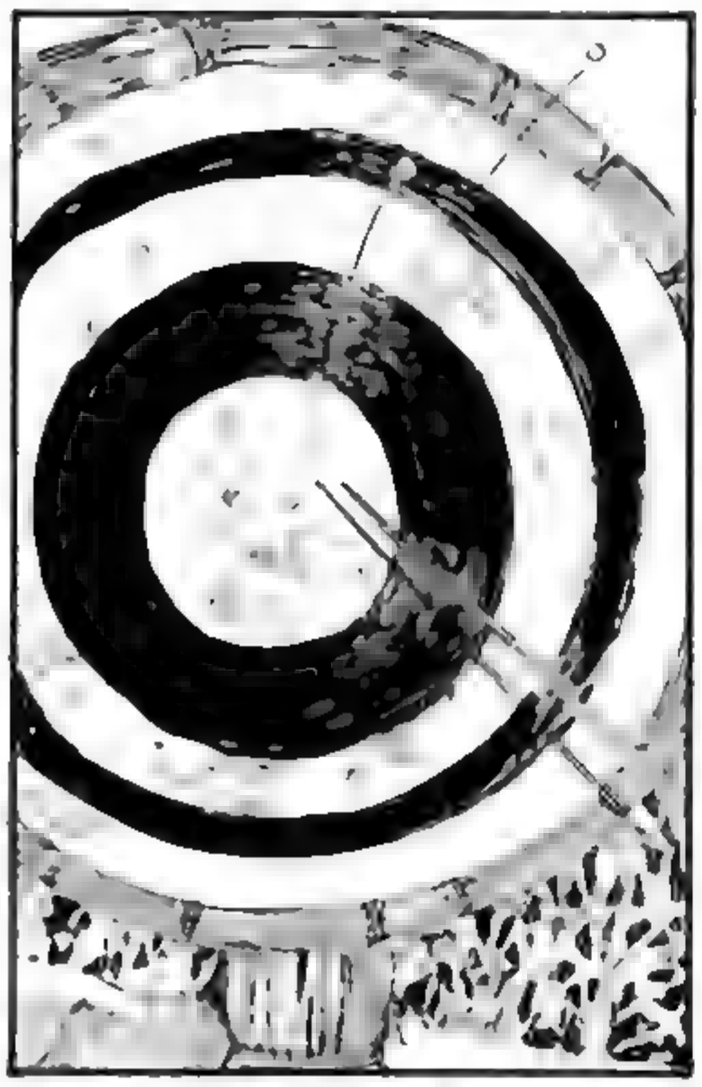
I WAS. HOW MANY LIVES DO I THINK I HAVE LEFT...?

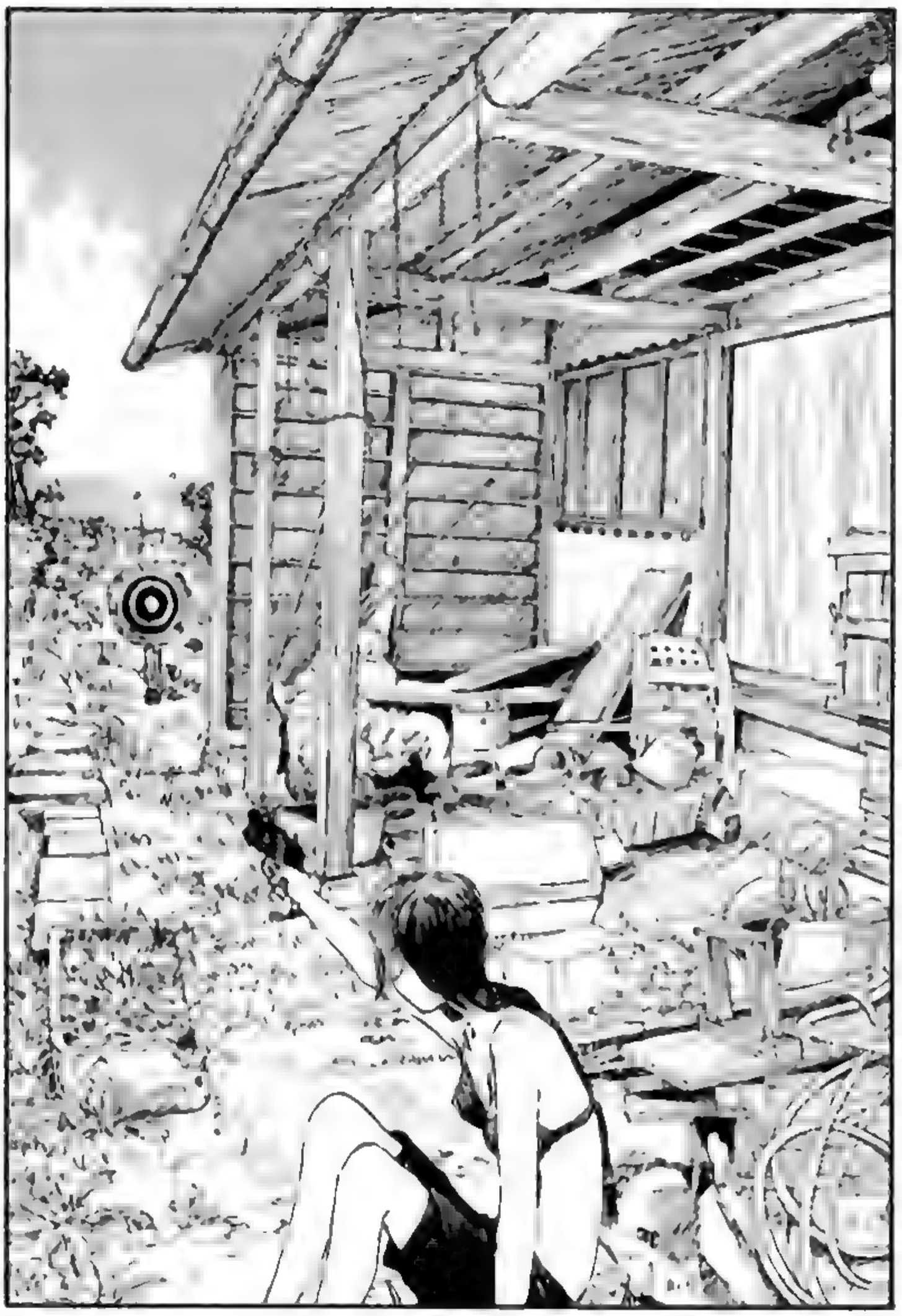
...TO BUY A DECENT ALTIMETER...

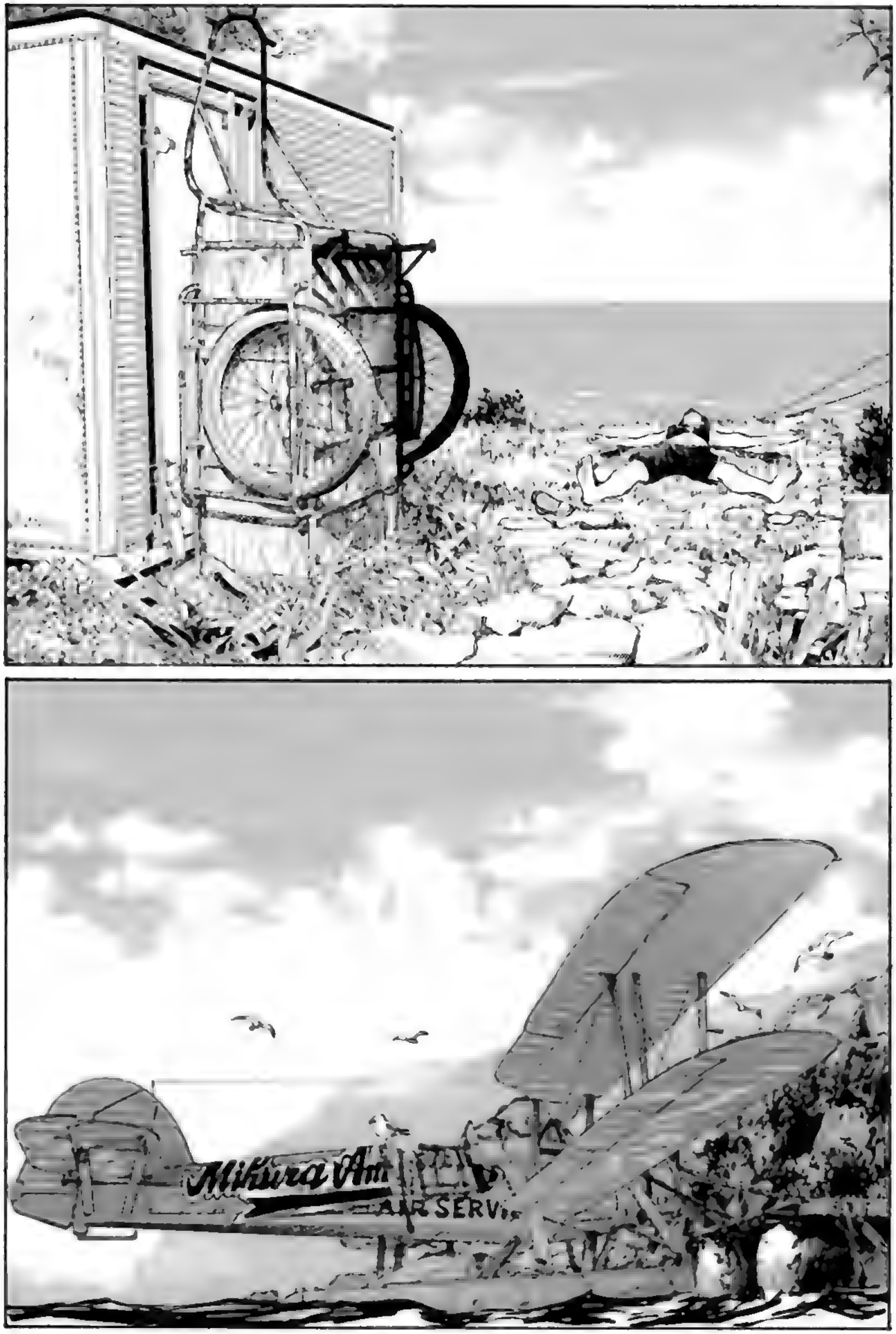
WORK...

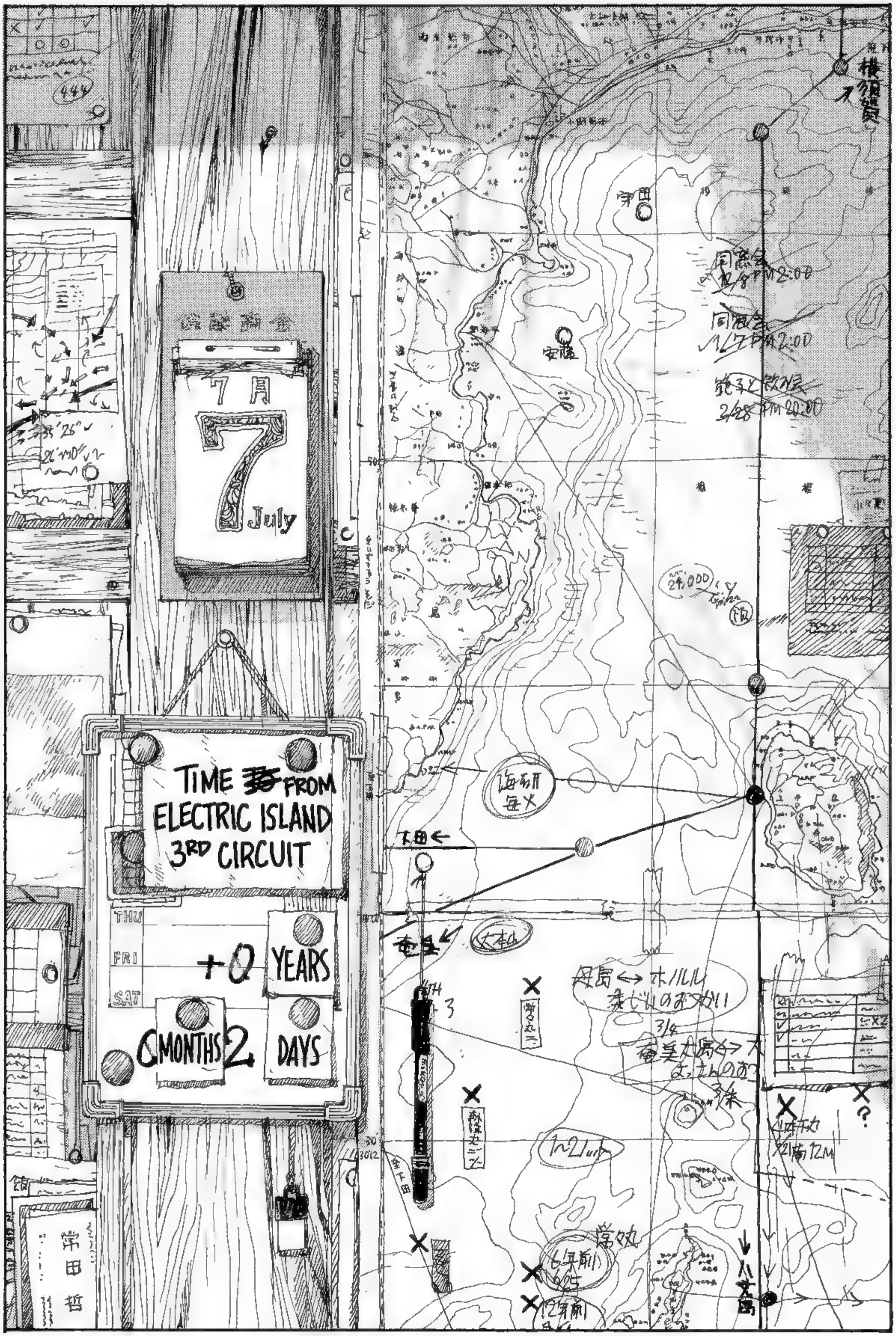
BUT EVEN LINDBERGH FELL ASLEEP OVER THE ATLANTIC... OR AT LEAST JIMMY STEWART DID...

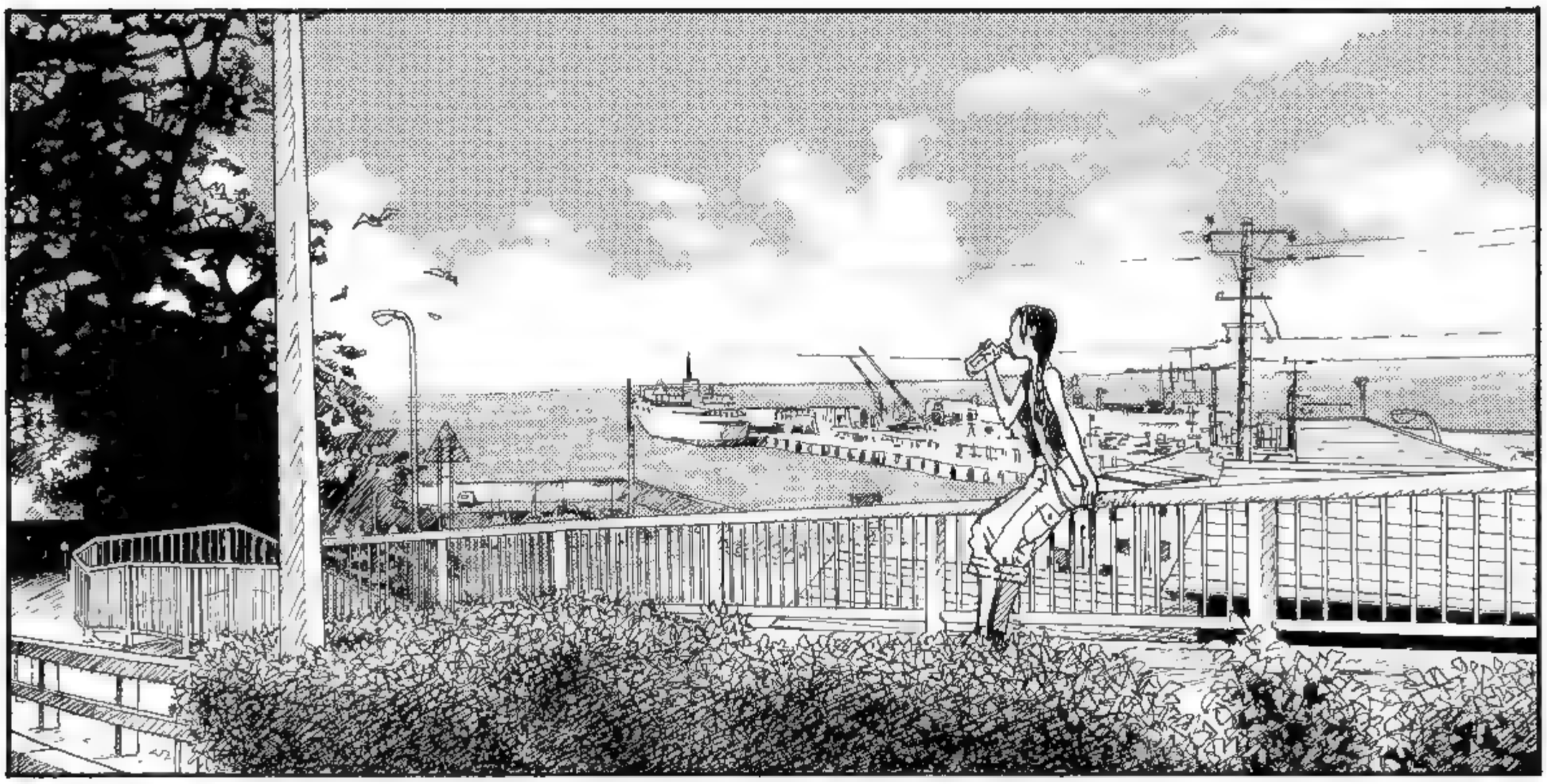
WOW... I'M STILL SHAKING.

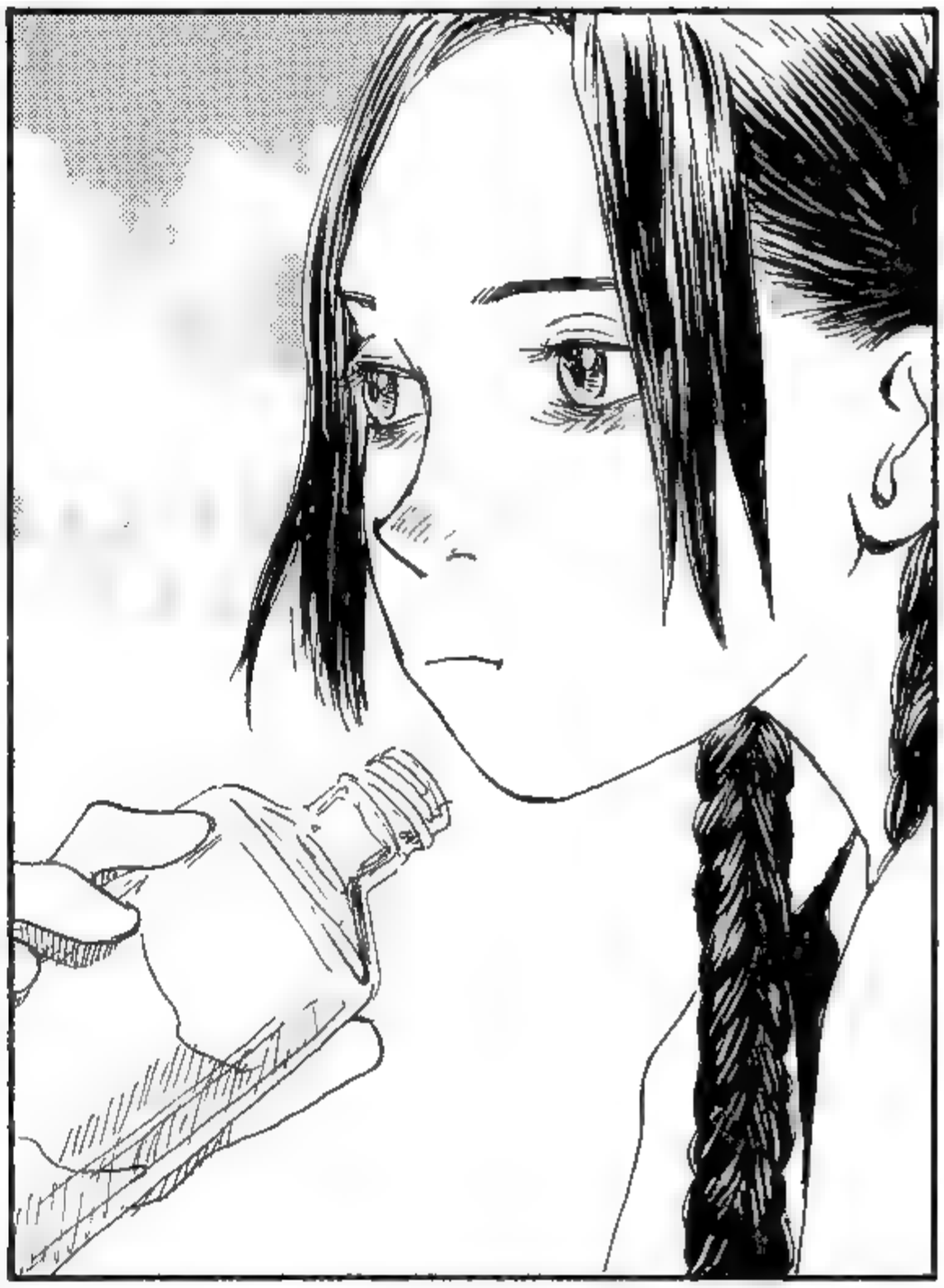


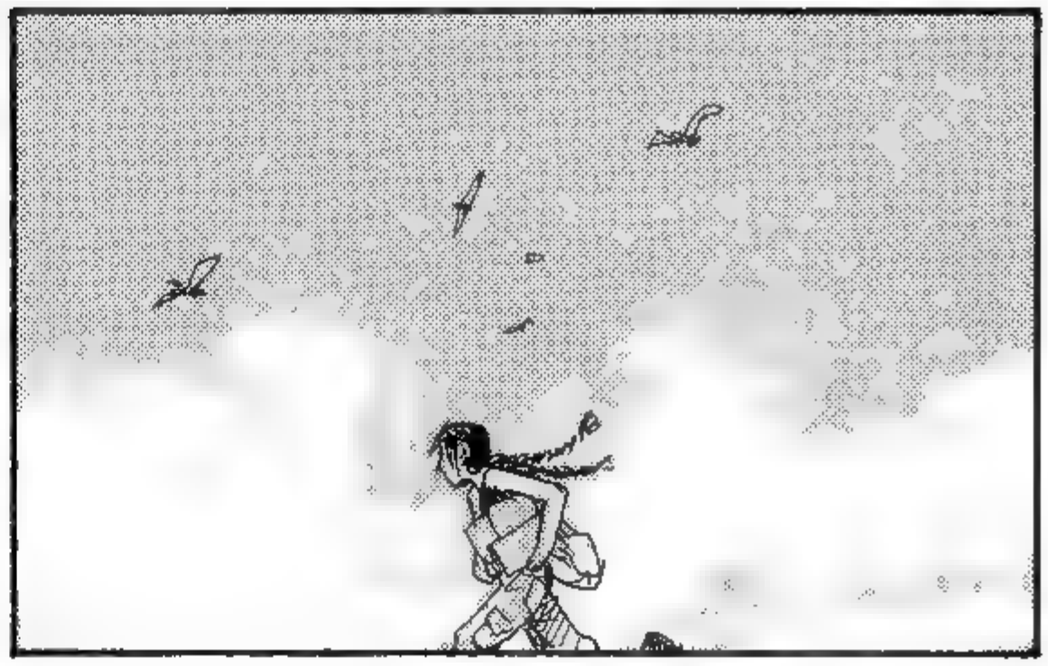


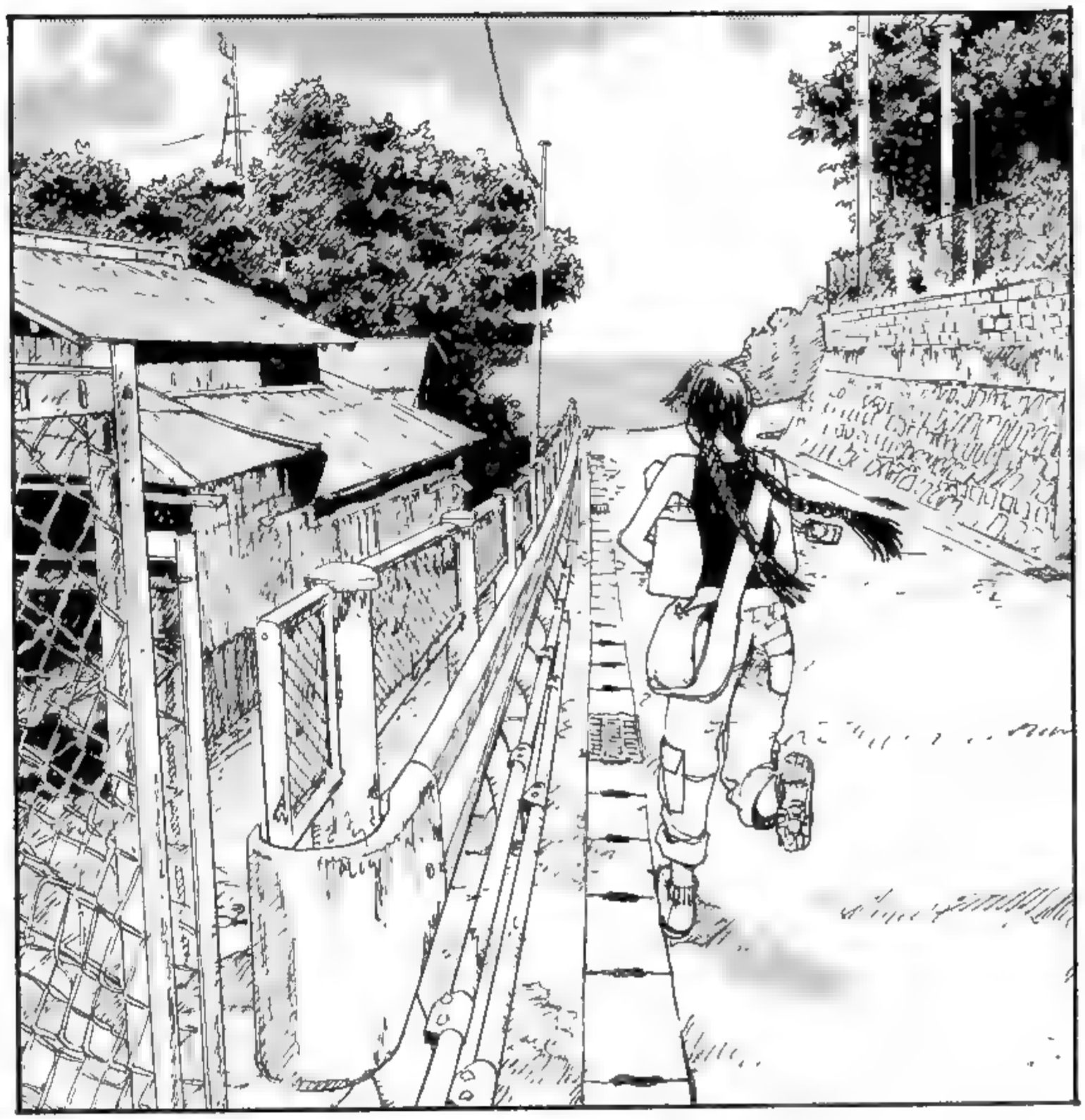

Mikura Air
AIR SERVICE

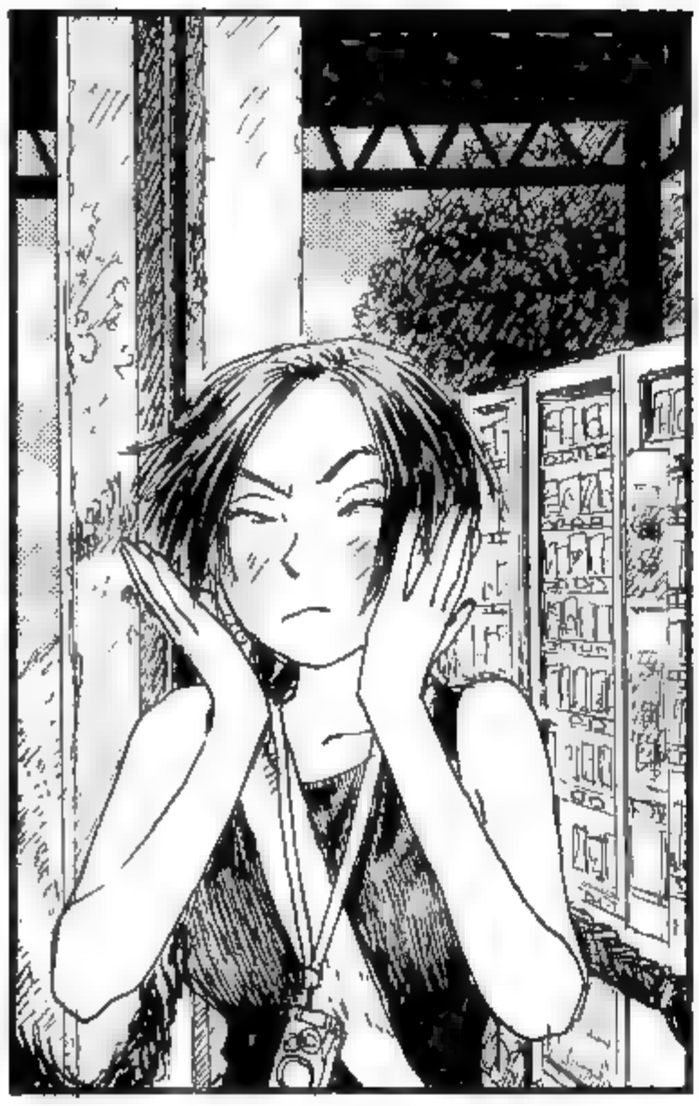

7月
7
July
TIME FROM
ELECTRIC ISLAND
3RD CIRCUIT
THU
FRI
SAT
+0 YEARS
6 MONTHS 2 DAYS
常田哲
横須賀
安藤
同窓会
12/8 PM2:00
同窓会
1/7 PM2:00
24,000
海釣り
母島
母島↔ホノルル
3/4
1ヘ2ヶ月
常吹

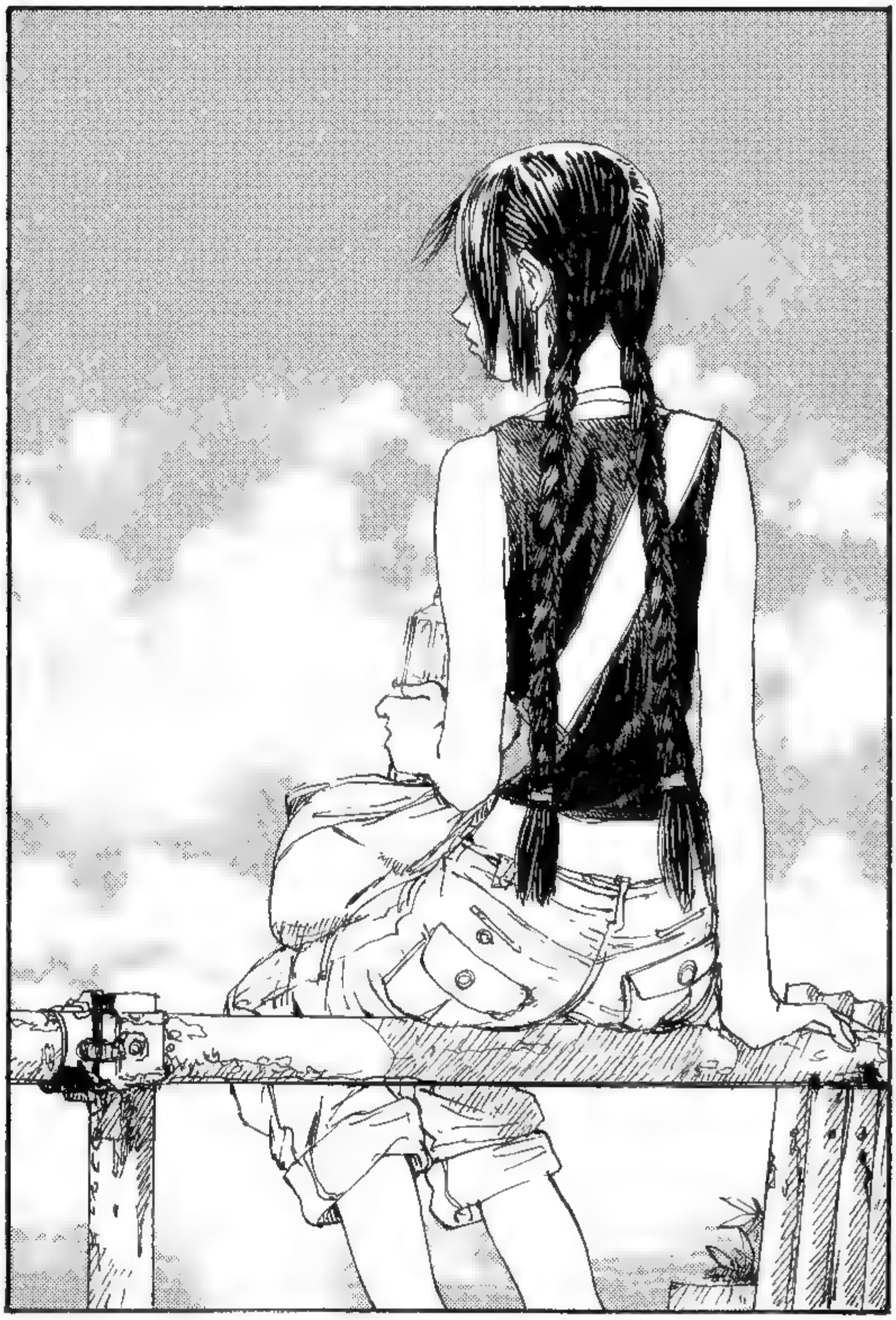


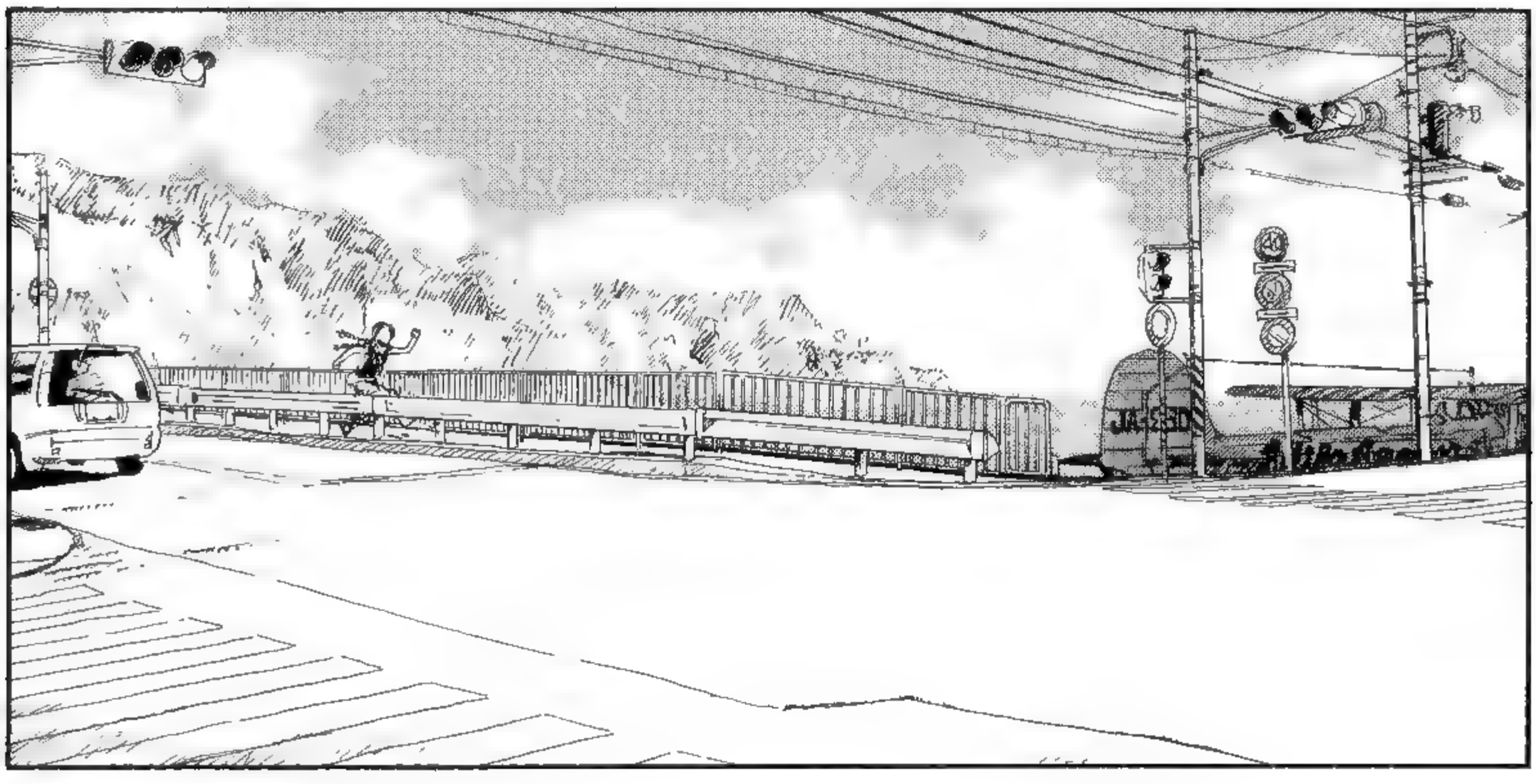










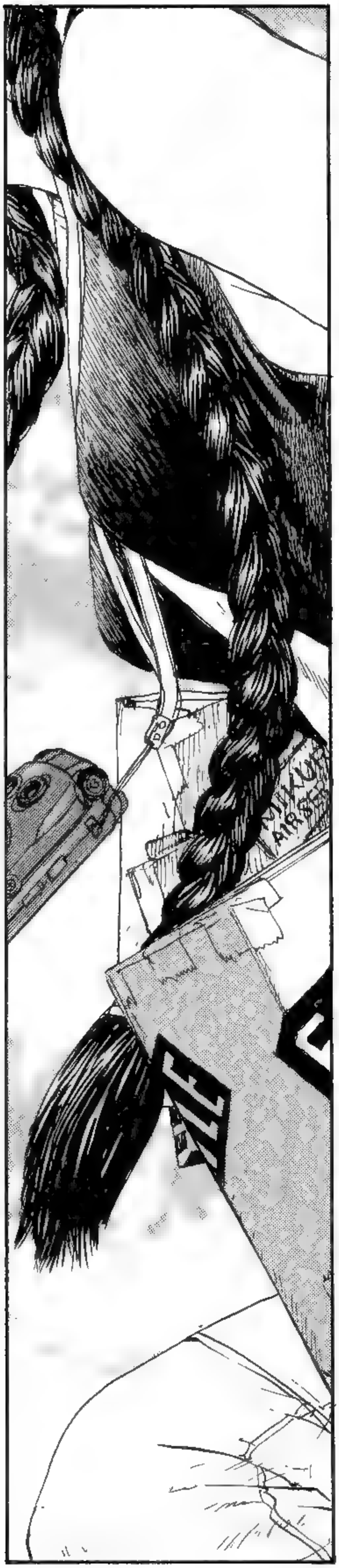


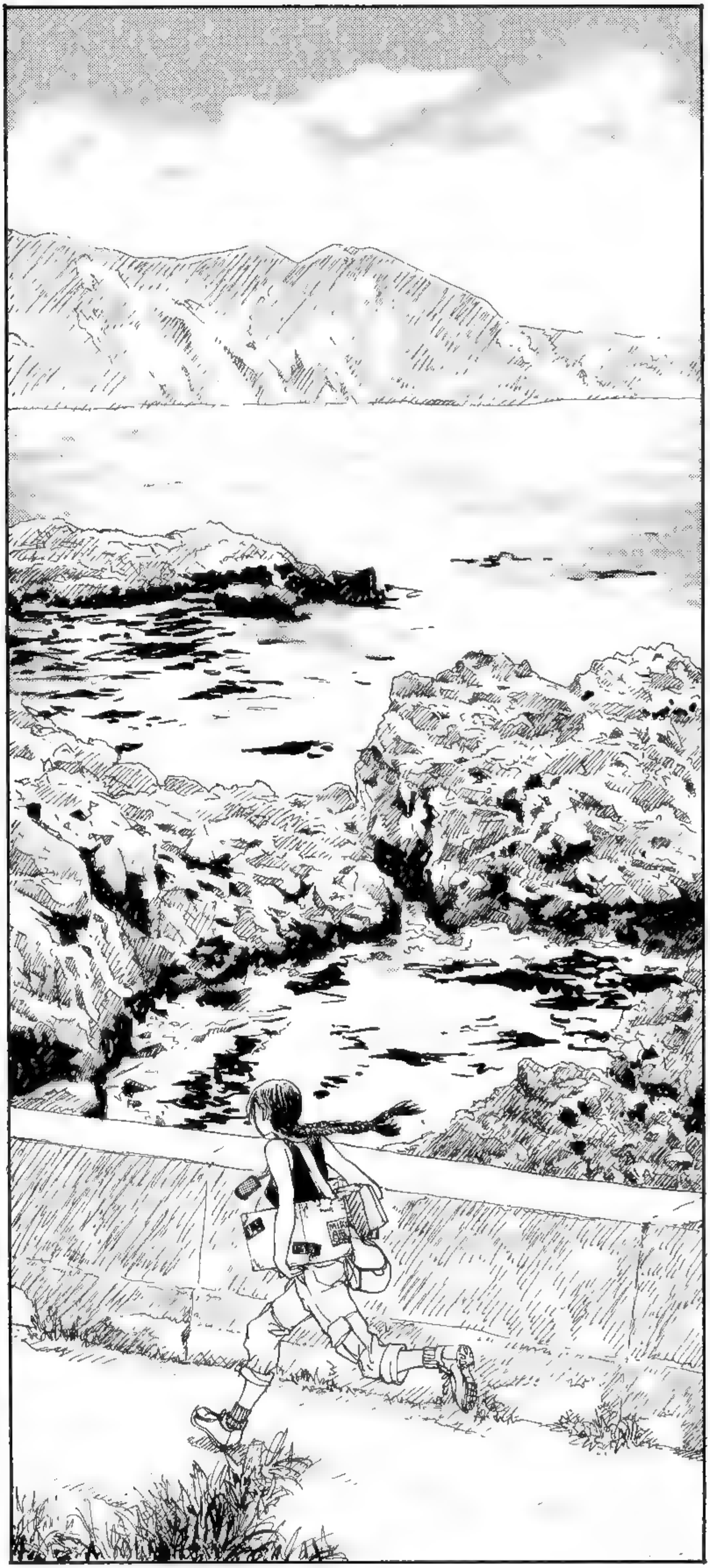
DO YOUR JOB.

IF THIS YEAR'S A BUST, WAIT THREE MORE.

IF THAT'S A BUST, WAIT ANOTHER THREE.

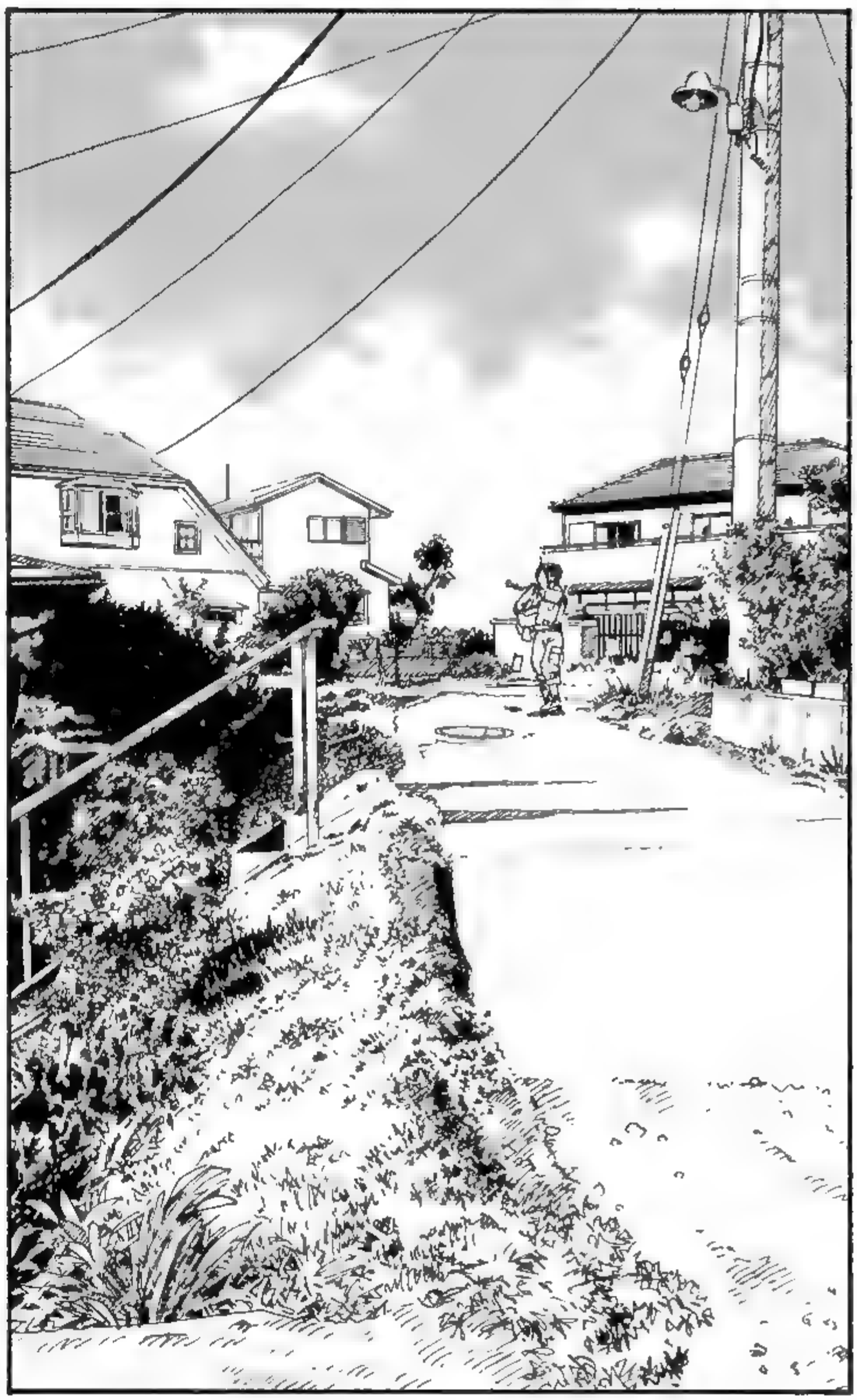
BUT LIKE HE SAID... I NEVER LET GO.





FRAGILE
MIKURA
AIR

YES? HELLO, HELLO?
FRAGILE
MIKURA
AIR
OH! DIRECTOR, HOW ARE YOU...?



EH? A DELIVERY FOR *ME...?*

...IT SHOULD'VE REACHED YOU BY NOW.

YES, YES...

WAS IT A LITTLE PACKAGE ...?

EH...?

HOLD ON, I'LL OPEN IT...

IT CAME IN TODAY'S MAIL. I'VE GOT IT RIGHT NOW.

MIKURA, MIKURA
41-262-012

BUT, BUT THIS...

...I LOST IT WHEN I...

SO IT IS YOURS AFTER ALL, MIKURA...?

HAWAII E.S.

...YOU REMEMBER SANJURO?

HE BROUGHT IT BACK, FROM... SOMEWHERE.

SANJURO THE DOLPHIN ...?

...AH ?!

SOME-WHERE? BUT...THIS WOULDN'T FLOAT.

MIKURA

HOW COULD HE FIND...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE BOTTOM FOR THREE YEARS.

...NO!

...AND THAT *SOMETHING* BROUGHT IT *BACK!!*

IT WAS CAUGHT ON SOMETHING...

DIRECTOR! SANJURO'S GOT A TRACKING COLLAR, RIGHT...?

DO YOU HAVE THE DATA ON HIS MOVEMENTS ...?!

RIGHT NOW! RIGHT AWAY!! *THANK YOU!!!*

WELL, YES. WHEN WOULD YOU--

WILL DO...

AIR SERVICE

THAT'S IT!!

6/22
SANJURO 6/26
6/25
MORITA MARU
5/9
5/4
13:00
11:30
5/30

33 DEGREES, 22 MINUTES, ONE SECOND NORTH...BY 138 DEGREES, 30 MINUTES, 18 SECONDS EAST...!

MIKURAJIMA

TOMOR-ROW...

5/21

SANJURO 6/26

6/25

13:00

MORITA MARU 11:30

6/27

JUNE 25...

...26...

...27...

TODAY.

...YES-TER-DAY.

JULY 4...

...5....

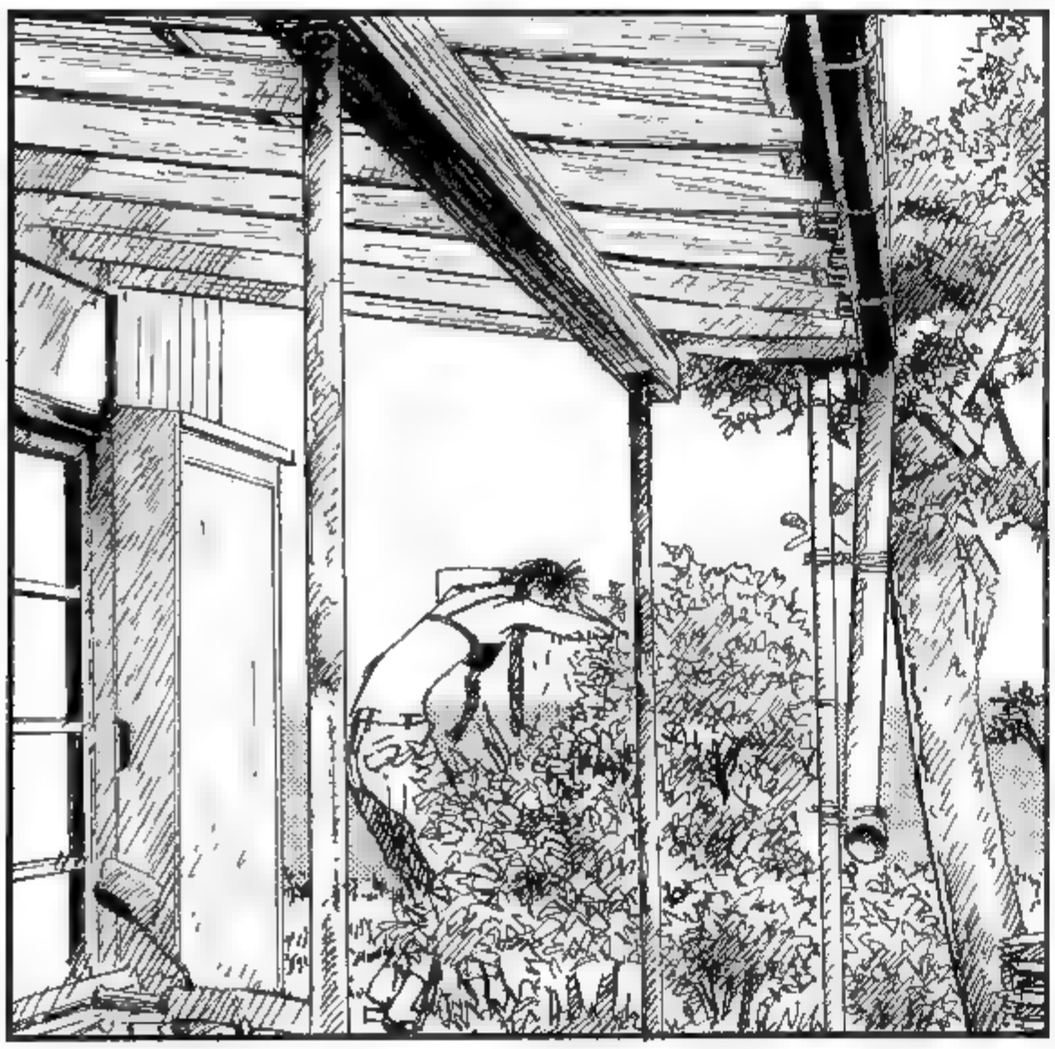
I CAN STILL MAKE IT...!

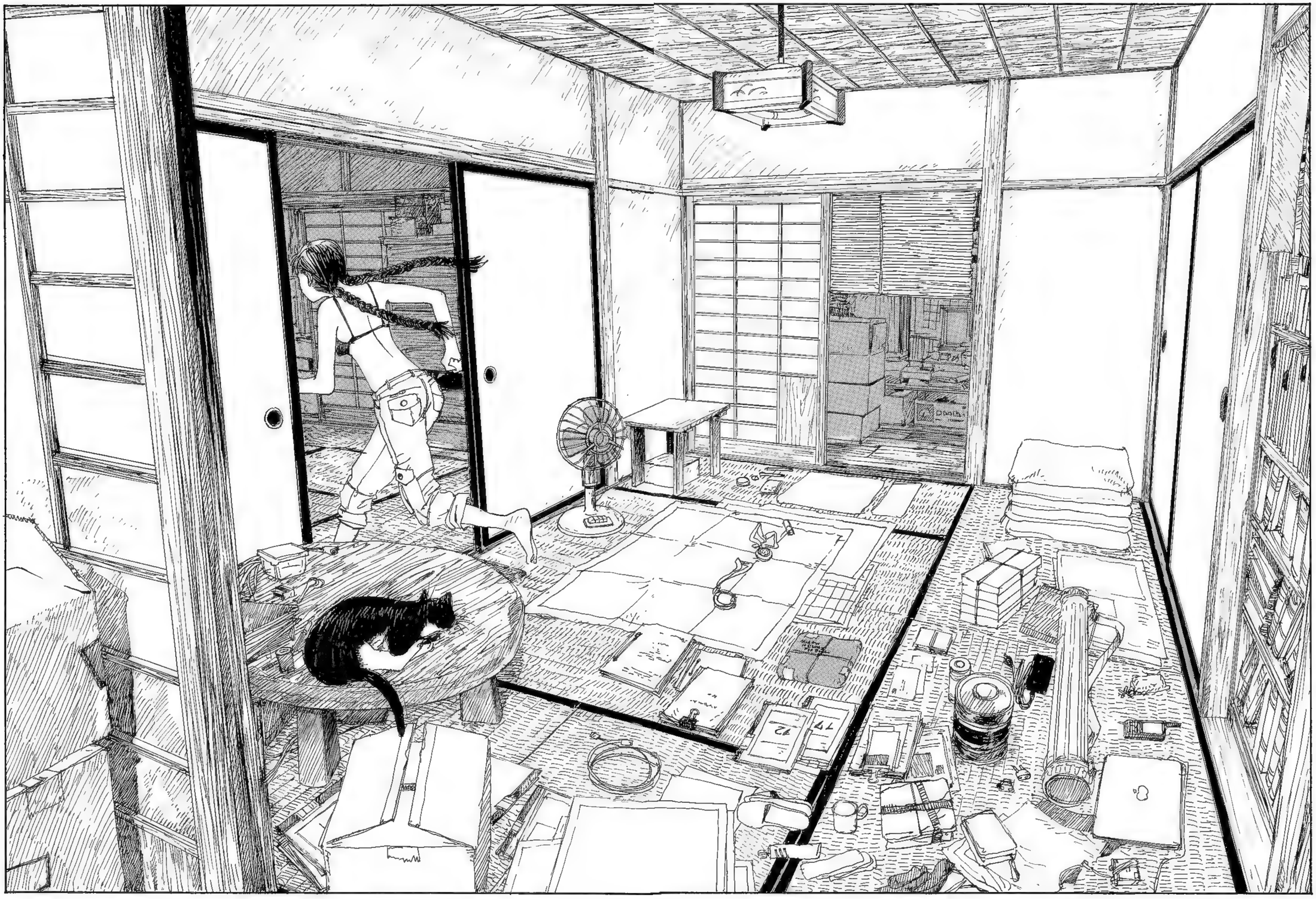
PHONE! *PHONE!* I HAD IT A MINUTE AGO...

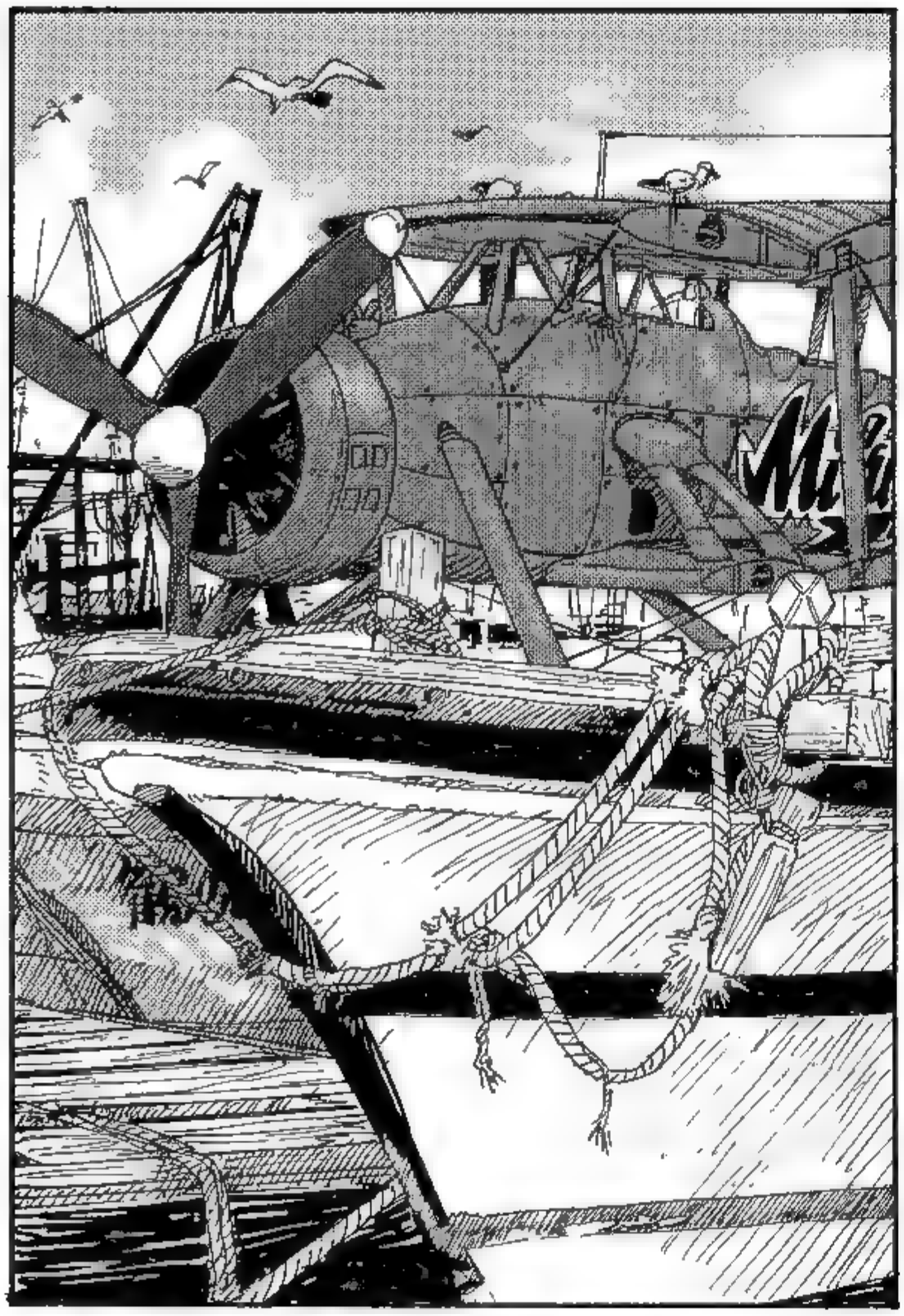
AUNTIE... PLEASE FEED ENDEAVOUR! SEND!

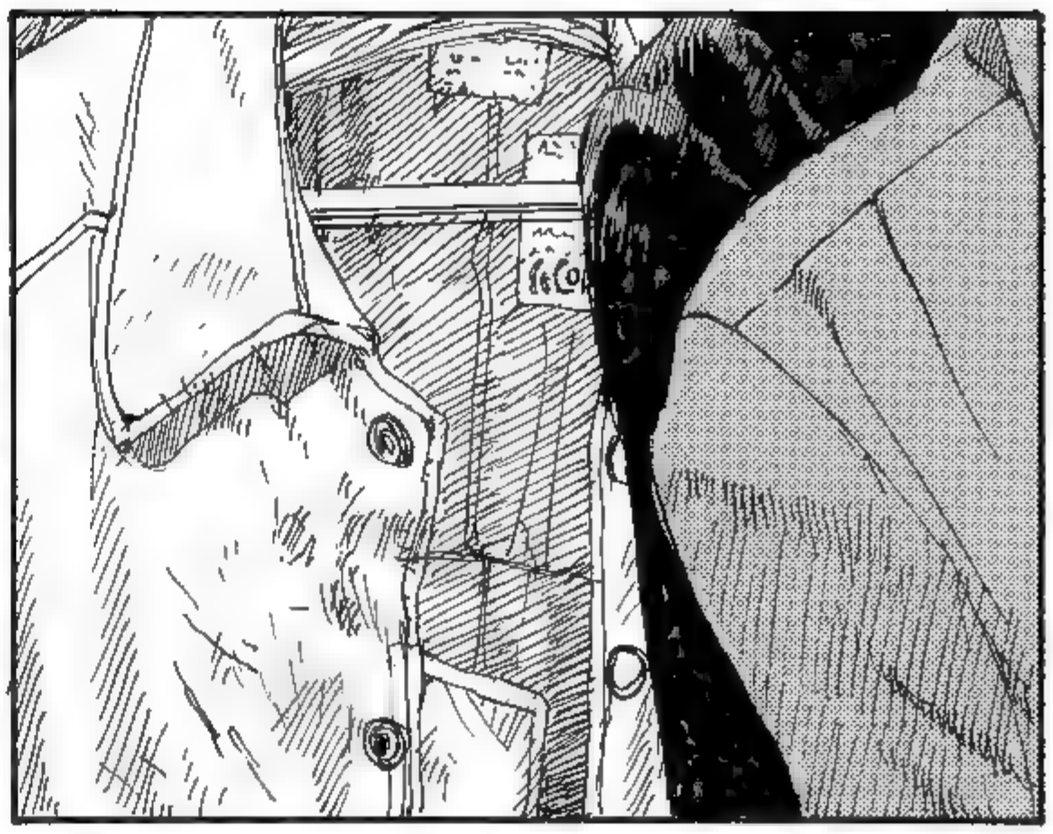
NORIKO. HAVE TO SKIP TOMOR-ROW. SORRY!

TEMPO-RARILY CLOSED STARTING TOMORROW. SEND!







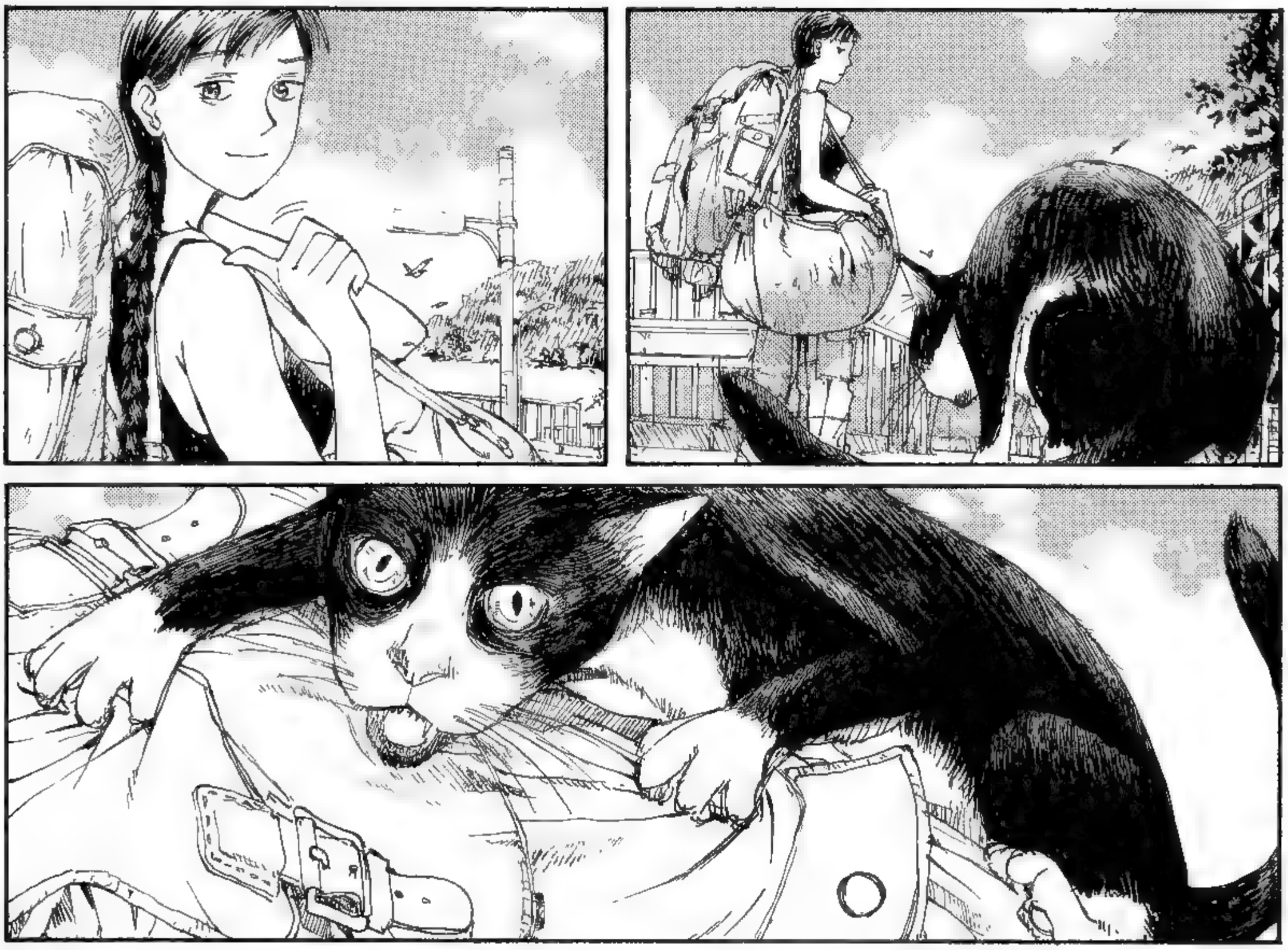


...WATCH THE HOUSE FOR ME, ENDEAVOUR!

SEE YOU IN A BIT!

RIGHT, THEN!

I SAID, STOP FOLLOWING ME...



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To Be Continued.

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NOTES ON *WANDERING ISLAND*

There are 6,852 islands that make up Japan, but when most people (including most Japanese) think of their country, they picture only the largest four—Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu—where over 98 percent of the Japanese population lives. Most of the remaining less than 2 percent live on Okinawa, four hundred miles distant from the main four, lying at the end of the Ryukyu archipelago that stretches in a southwesterly chain from Kyushu to Taiwan.

The tiny fraction left over out of Japan's 127 million people—even in an era of demographic decline, it is still the tenth most populous country in the world—live largely in the scattered chains that are the backdrop of *Wandering Island*, the Izu and Ogasawara archipelagoes. Whereas the Ryukyus arc toward Taiwan (and thus, toward the channels of commerce and industry in eastern Asia), the Izu and Ogasawara Islands end up out where the action isn't, six hundred miles more or less south into the open Pacific.

About one and a half million people live in the Ryukyu archipelago; by contrast, less than thirty thousand live in the Izu and Ogasawaras. Okinawa is well served by air transport; despite its small population relative to the rest of Japan, it has the nation's seventh-busiest airport, with direct flights to multiple destinations in China, Taiwan, and South Korea. The situation in the Izu and Ogasawara Islands is rather different: the largest airport, Oshima (seen from the air on page 11 and on the ground on pages 120–121; Mikura is calling their tower on page 100), is the kind where you never have to worry about getting to the wrong gate or wrong terminal, because there's only ever one flight, from one airline, going one place, arriving or departing, at a time.

I'm sure there are readers with small-town connections who use airports like that and can picture the scene. The one I'm personally familiar with is Pangborn Memorial in Wenatchee, WA—a place linked somehow with the old-time aviation spirit of this manga, as it's named for Washington native Clyde Pangborn, who with Hugh Herndon made the first nonstop trans-Pacific flight in 1931, taking off from Misawa, Japan (where a replica of their plane, *Miss Veedol*, can still be found), and landing in Wenatchee. Pangborn has just three arrivals and three departures, all on the same airline (Horizon) and to and from the same city (Seattle).

Oshima Airport's much like that. Those two planes you see Mikura walking toward on page 120, and then hanging around on page 121, are *the* two planes at the airport, at least as far as scheduled passenger service is concerned, with four arrivals and four departures each day, in each case to Chofu, one of the smaller local airports in the Tokyo metro area (in fact, Chofu is only about four miles from the famous Ghibli Museum). In other words, the world of *Wandering Island* is too small time to be served by the major Tokyo airports, Narita and Haneda. There actually was until last year a jet service from Haneda to Oshima operated by one of Japan's biggest carriers, ANA, but it turned out there simply wasn't enough traffic to warrant it. ANA had been expecting the 120-seat Boeing 737 used for the route to fly only half full, but in fact it ended up being only 10 percent full.

The modest planes you see on pages 120–121, then, are much more appropriate to the local economy; they're Dornier 228s, twin turboprops seating nineteen people. Again, Kenji Tsuruta (as part of his strong eye for local detail seen throughout this manga) is depicting what you would actually see walking out on the tarmac at Oshima Airport, and he has based their tail livery on that of the real operators of these planes, using the flying fish logo of New Central Airservice (except where the actual planes have an "NCA," he's placed a "WKK").

Along with the map on page 2, this discussion of the story's setting is meant to help the reader picture the very different side of Japan depicted in *Wandering Island* and the peculiar fact that it all starts not very far from Tokyo—which is, after all, the largest area of urban sprawl in the world and the original visual inspiration for *Blade Runner*. It's just a twenty-five-minute flight on those prop planes from Tokyo to Oshima. In American terms, it's a bit like the relationship between Los Angeles County and Catalina—except, imagine if Catalina was only the first and closest of a string of inhabited islands that went hundreds of miles out into the ocean, as is the case with the relationship between Tokyo and the Izu and Ogasawara Islands. If you look closely at the envelope on page 119, you'll see it's addressed to "Mikurajima Village, Tokyo Metro"—as odd as it may seem, administratively all these little islands are considered to be part of greater Tokyo.

It also helps us understand the role a one-person business like the Amelia Air Service, romanticized as it is, might play in the world of

Wandering Island. Mikura's conversation with the WKK pilot on page 121 reflects Tsuruta's knowledge of this setting; she says she'll take anything he has that's going to Mikurajima (which in 2015 had a population of 341—as you might expect, the implication is that Mikura was named for her home), one of the Izu Islands depicted on the page 2 map that the real-life New Central Airservice does not fly to. In other words, Mikura's economic niche is to fulfill the jobs too tiny even for the small-time regular air freight business her islands support—subcontracting for them and doing odd deliveries of her own on the side.

It was translator Dana Lewis who identified Mikura's seaplane (as well as so many other details in this manga, of course). Dana comments, "We may never know how Mikura and Grandpa Brian got their hands on a Fairey Swordfish, but it is a distinguished bird indeed. First entering service in 1936, the Swordfish, with its huge Bristol Pegasus radial engine, could fly 550 miles. It operated both from British naval and merchant aircraft carriers as a torpedo bomber and reconnaissance plane; most famously of all, it was a Swordfish wing from the HMS *Ark Royal* that managed to put two torpedoes into the German battleship *Bismarck* on May 26, 1941, jamming its rudder and dooming Hitler's attempts to use his surface fleet against the Allied supply routes." The Swordfish, incidentally, was nicknamed the "Stringbag" by its crews for its ability to carry seemingly any kind of weaponry—except, where the plane once slung torpedoes, rockets, bombs, or depth charges, Mikura slings cargo, as seen in the opening color pages of the story.

Not seen but alluded to several times in this manga are a second, much farther chain of inhabited islands, the Ogasawaras. To give some idea of how far away they are, the map on page 2 would need an extra three pages folding out just to reach them. Yet, again, Japanese people live here, and Mikura delivers here; as mentioned on page 141, she also commutes here, having evidently inherited a house her grandpa, Brian Amelia, owned on Hahajima, one of the two populated islands in the Ogasawaras.

Out here, Mikura has the sky much to herself; there is no regular air passenger service to the Ogasawaras, and only one regular passenger ship, the *Ogasawara Maru*, that sails from Tokyo once a week (and every three days during the summer)—it's a 25½-hour trip. What brings people out to the Ogasawaras? In a word, nature: the islands are a UNESCO

World Heritage Site, their isolation making them an important place to study evolutionary processes (they have sometimes been described as the "Galápagos of Asia"). Their isolation from the rest of their country has ironically also meant that they have sometimes been closer to the currents of world history than they have Japan's.

Chichijima, the other inhabited island of the group (where the *Ogasawara Maru* puts into port), is where the elder president George Bush was shot down as a young naval aviator in 1944; a visitor's guide notes the locale and that he was the only survivor of his bombing raid, without going into details as to why—his other fellow aviators were captured, executed, and in some cases, eaten (and not out of hunger) by Japanese officers, an incident recounted in James Bradley's 2003 book *Flyboys*. Perhaps the most infamous island of that entire brutal era, Iwo Jima, is just 125 miles SSW of Mikura's house on Hahajima; she could get there in her plane in less than an hour, although access is restricted—today, as before the war, Iwo Jima is a Japanese military base, used from time to time also by the US Navy.

But the Ogasawaras have a still more strange and contentious history than this, making them a suitable backdrop for the mysteries, as well as taken-for-granted differences, of *Wandering Island*. Lying so far as they do from the main islands (especially back in the days when journeys there had to be made by sailing ships, rather than a diesel-powered boat like the *Ogasawara Maru*), they had first been discovered in the sixteenth century not by a Japanese, but by a Spanish explorer, Bernardo de la Torre; indeed, the shogunate may have learned of their existence through the Europeans.

Whereas it's common in manga for a Japanese character of ethnically mixed background to have that fact explained or remarked upon, the reader will have noticed that no one in the story comments on the fact that Mikura's last name is Amelia, or that her grandfather was named Brian. That may very well be because a considerable number of people from the Ogasawaras are of Western ancestry; in the decades before they were formally annexed by Japan in the 1860s, a Massachusetts settler named Nathaniel Savory established what he hoped would become a formal American colony on the then-uninhabited islands.

Commodore Perry made a stop at the settlement on the way to his famous 1853 mission to Tokyo Bay to forcibly open Japan to American

trade—since 1641 official Japanese trade with the West had been conducted exclusively via the Dutch, through a small artificial island, Dejima, constructed as a restricted depot in Nagasaki harbor. This is, of course, the same Dejima referenced in Ryugo's cryptic notes on page 138, and mention of a Dutch artificial island can't help but be linked to a clue some readers will have also noticed. "Electric Island," the wandering island of the title of this story, is written Is. Electriciteit on the mysterious package on page 23 that begins Mikura's quest—that is, written not only in Dutch, but in old-fashioned Dutch; the modern way to write the word in Dutch is with a *k*, *Elektriciteit*.

Tsuruta's use of "Is." to denote an island with a Dutch name may at first seem off, given that "island" in Dutch is *eiland*. Dutch geographical terms from their age of exploration and empire show different usages. An excellent source is Jakob Roggeveen's map (published in 1724) of his 1721-22 journey in search of *Terra Australis*—not the continent we know today as Australia, which had already been discovered (in fact, the Dutch had claimed it as *Nieuw Holland*), but the great southern land explorers had believed for centuries must exist at the bottom of the world—what we now know as Antarctica. On Roggeveen's map, the Solomon Islands, for example, are indeed listed as *Salomons Eil:* (presumably *Eil: for Eilanden*), but one can also observe a variety of ways to denote islands, including *I.* (both before and after the name), *I.S*, *I.S.*, and *IS*. I wondered if perhaps *Eil:* or some variant might be used for islands with Dutch names (as opposed to, say, Spanish ones), but the map also has such notations as *I.S. Pieter, I. Amsterdam*, and *I. Rotterdam*. Perhaps it simply reflects a less standardized era, or maybe the co-existence of Latinate and Germanic terms in an era when Latin was still a common literary and scientific language (for example, the map uses the Latin-Dutch phrase *Tropicus Canceri of Noorder Zons keerskring*, whereas in modern Dutch you could simply write *Kreeftskeerkring* to mean "Tropic of Cancer.")

Other allusions to Holland's past history of colonies and seagoing trade are found scribbled on page 138, such as "1823 Siebold," a reference to Philipp Franz von Siebold, a German-born doctor and botanist who was posted to Dejima in 1823 (and while there fathered the woman who would become the first female Japanese doctor of Western medicine, Ine Kusumoto). Ryugo's note on the "Amboyna Massacre"

refers to a once-infamous 1623 affair in Indonesia—Swift alludes to it in *Gulliver's Travels*—where, in what sounds like a clichéd cyberpunk scenario seventeenth-century-style, corporate agents of the Dutch East India Company tortured and executed a group of rival English merchants and the Japanese *ronin* mercenaries (!) working for them. There's even a note, "December 1642 Staten Land," referring to the first European discovery, by Dutch explorer Abel Tasman, of the Maori-settled islands today known as New Zealand or Aotearoa. Dutch roots in Asia are deep, the legacy of the same golden age of merchant prosperity from which Rembrandt took his commissions—in fact, it is known from his auction records that Rembrandt owned a set of samurai armor, imported all the way from Dejima.

More playfully (but perhaps befitting the spirit of the manga), Tsuruta also references Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* on page 138 with the note "The shoulder of Spy-Glass Hill, 7.5 to North-Northeast." We're eager to see where creator Kenji Tsuruta will take all these mysteries in *Wandering Island* Volume 2. Tsuruta is a manga artist with a famously limited output, having completed perhaps a dozen volumes since his professional debut in 1986. In part this is because of his other career as a science-fiction illustrator, a field in which he has won the Seiun—sometimes considered to be the Japanese equivalent to the Hugo, one of English-language SF's top awards—three times, most recently in 2013.

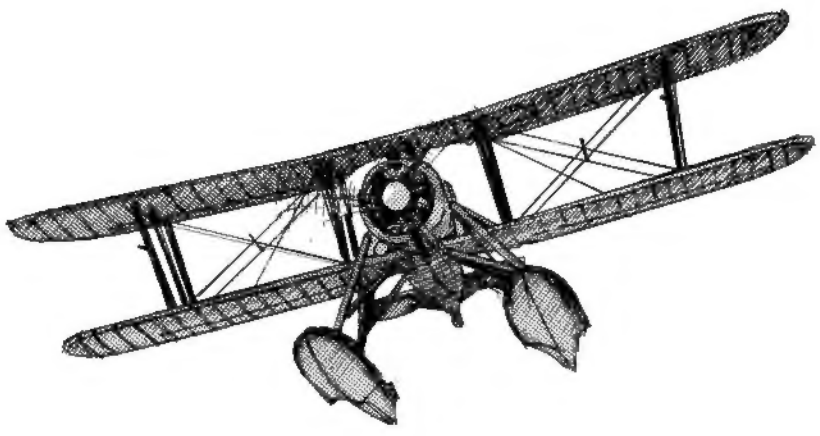
Japanese novels Kenji Tsuruta has illustrated include one by the creator of Dark Horse's *The Kurosagi Corpse Delivery Service* and *MPD-Psycho*, Eiji Otsuka, entitled *Natsu no kyoushitsu* (meaning "summer camp" in the sense of a summer educational program), and Hiroshi Mori's series *The Sky Crawlers*, later adapted into a 2008 anime film by Mamoru Oshii. Foreign novels in Japanese translation Tsuruta has illustrated include Vernor Vinge's Zones of Thought series and an edition of Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Sign of Four*, released to mark publisher Tokyo Sogensha's fiftieth anniversary.

Anime fans may also know Tsuruta's work from GAINAX's 2002 series *Magical Shopping Arcade Abenobashi*, for which he did the character designs, or for the two anime based on Tsuruta's own manga *Spirit of Wonder* (*Spirit of Wonder: Miss China's Ring* and *Spirit of Wonder: Scientific Boys Club*). Tsuruta's own limited output as an artist has not

diminished his respect in the industry, evidenced by his recent participation as a judge in Kodansha's seasonal competition to select new manga talent for the famed *Afternoon*, the home magazine of *Wandering Island*—and other titles Dark Horse has published over the years, including *Oh My Goddess!*, *Blade of the Immortal*, and *Gunsmith Cats*.

Those manga, as well as Tsuruta's own *Spirit of Wonder*, were first brought to Dark Horse over two decades ago thanks to the efforts of the late Toren Smith, cofounder of Studio Proteus and one of the handful of pioneers who founded the English-language manga industry. As Dark Horse celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year, we are honored to publish Kenji Tsuruta once again, appropriately enough through the contributions of two other people strongly associated with Studio Proteus—cofounder with Toren (and this book's translator) Dana Lewis, and letterer and retouch artist Susie Lee—the very same duo who adapted *Oh My Goddess!* for many years. We are also honored by the publication of this book to remember our friend and inspiration Toren, and to show that this remembrance will move us forward.

—CGH



Mikura Amelia is a free-spirited young woman who lives alone with her cat and operates an air delivery service. When her beloved grandfather passes away, she discovers he left her an undelivered parcel, addressed to an island that doesn't exist . . . or does it? To find the truth, Mikura flies off in search of the Wandering Island!